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## Doorsteps to be swept away by new building rules

By RACHEL KELLY  
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE great British front doorstep is to vanish under the red tape of regulations. Beloved of sitcoms, scrubbed by generations of housewives, and a staple of urban architecture, the doorstep is set to disappear under changes to housebuilding regulations to be announced before Christmas.

Under the new rules, Nick Raynsford, the Construction Minister, will declare "level thresholds" mandatory on all new homes to ensure access for people in wheelchairs.

Existing buildings will not be affected.

The 150,000 new homes built annually will in future also have to have a downstairs lavatory accessible to the disabled, wider internal and external doors and corridors, and less steep footpaths and approaches. Public buildings, shops and offices already have to provide level thresholds.

The changes are the culmination of a decade of lobbying by organisations representing disabled and elderly people.

Roger Humber, the chief executive of the House Builders' Federa-

tion, said: "This will change the face of domestic architecture. It will require a major redesign of the fronts of most of the houses we build."

Richard Best, of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the housing charity, said: "These will be important measures, not just for the six million people who are disabled in some way, but for all of us who will benefit."

The regulations are likely to be implemented by April 1999. Builders will be required to make the front door, or a side door if there is one, level with the path or driveway.

The only exemptions will be for houses built on steep slopes, where steps are unavoidable.

Detached or semi-detached homes could put the level threshold at the rear of the property provided it was easily accessible from where a car would be parked.

External doors will probably be a minimum of 800mm wide, and internal doors 750mm wide. The main downstairs corridor is expected to be a minimum of 900mm and the downstairs lavatory entrance must be 750mm wide.

What builders must ensure — in the jargon of the industry — is "visit-

ability housing" for those in wheelchairs.

The ideas were first suggested by the concept of a "Lifetime Home" — one that would last from cradle to grave — developed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Its report suggested 16 changes that the average home would have to undergo to qualify, including more far-reaching changes than the Government proposes.

The House Builders' Federation said that the changes could add £1,000 to the cost of the average two-bedroom house and would squeeze many first-time buyers out of the market. "Builders will simply stop making two-bedroom houses and make three-bedroom ones instead," Mr Humber said. "And we don't have failsafe technical solutions at the moment to ensure that we keep the rain out."

The foundation said the changes would add only £200 to the cost of building a three-bedroom house. The Department of the Environment refused to confirm the changes but said that an announcement would be made in the House of Commons shortly.

Doorstep history, page 5

HARRY PAGE

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

AND MICHAEL HORNSBY



by compensation from European Union funds.

Dr Cunningham emerged from a London meeting with Joe Walsh, his Irish counterpart, to pledge to do everything in his power to bring the chaos to a halt. "Farmers have no right to act outside the law. If this was a bunch of unemployed youngsters people would see it completely differently," he said.

The minister said that the protesters were "short-sighted" if they could not see the damage they were doing to Britain's reputation. "When French lorry drivers were blocking French ports farmers here were the first to complain, rightly so, that their interests were being affected," he said. Dr Cunningham added that his discussion with Mr Walsh had been "cordial but nevertheless frank. Joe has left me in no doubt about the strength of feeling in the Republic of Ireland about the illegal blockading of legitimate trade."

The Road Haulage Association called on port authorities to ensure all docks were kept open as farmers threatened round-the-clock pickets.

"What started as a minor dispute is in danger of spiralling out of control, with mob rule dictating who can and cannot transit to and from the UK," a spokesman said. "The British economy cannot be held to ransom."

Militant Welsh farmers were last night maintaining a round-the-clock protest at Holyhead, while others mounted a blockade of Fishguard. More than 500 farmers from Southern England were expected to gather at Dover's eastern docks.

News of the BSE inquiry was welcomed by MPs and relatives of CJD victims. Charles Kennedy, agriculture spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, hoped all shared with the Prince was that both were teased for their prominent ears.

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The pair then swapped reminiscences about having to walk "crocodile style, in single



Clive Harold and the Prince at *The Big Issue* headquarters. The magazine seller said: "I only remember him because we both had big ears"

## Prince and the pauper, old boys reunited

By DANIEL MCGROarty  
AND ADAM FRESCO

THE PRINCE OF WALES clearly did not recognise the middle-aged man sitting next to him, whom he thought was about to explain what it is like to make a living by selling *The Big Issue*, the magazine for the homeless.

But self-confessed alcoholic and pauper Clive Harold stunned the Prince when he said: "Actually we were at school together."

The Prince stared at Mr Harold's lined and gaunt face.

"Really, where and when?" he asked, turning his back on three other homeless vendors who looked similarly startled by the revelation.

The 49-year-old former journalist and author, who has been selling the magazine outside Holborn Underground station in London for only a week, said he remembered the Prince from their days at the Hill House prep school in Chelsea from the late Fifties. In those days, Mr Harold recalled, he all shared with the Prince was that both were teased for their prominent ears.

The pair then swapped reminiscences about having to walk "crocodile style, in single

file" through Sloane Square on their way to a Territorial Army ground to play football and how a teacher would try to raise their spirits by giving them sweets.

"It was acid drops," the Prince said, punching his old schoolfriend's arm.

"No, they were strong mints," Mr Harold said. "We were in the same stream for about two years."

Afterwards, Mr Harold said: "The Prince did not remember me of course and I only remember him because we both had big ears and

because he was obviously well known there."

He had told the Prince, who was visiting the London headquarters of *The Big Issue*, that selling the magazine had brought discipline back into his life. "It gives people a purpose."

The Prince replied: "As long as you're all right, that's the main thing." As they parted, the Prince clapped him on the back and said: "Well done".

Wrapped up in his black greatcoat over a leather jacket, Mr Harold produced his Father Christmas hat, which he wears to sell the magazine, and offered it to the Prince, who declined with as much grace as he could muster.

Mr Harold said later: "When I was five I lived in a mansion. My father was well-known and had lots of influential friends."

"It is a long time ago and I cannot really remember if I was very friendly with the Prince. I said: 'This is a bit like *The Goon Show*. Things went wrong with my life, I told him: 'I have made a few mistakes'."

"After leaving Hill House, I told him I went on to Millfield public school while he went to Gordonstoun."

"After college, I became a journalist and was writing

showbiz pages on *Woman's Own* and other women's magazines. I wrote a book called *The Uninvited*, which went to number eight in the best-seller lists. I still carry a copy of it around with me. It is a sort of security blanket. Everything

was going so well in my career. I was speaking with stars like Sylvester Stallone and I went to New York and Hollywood.

"I sold the film rights to my hook in Hollywood but nothing

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### England get Romania in World Cup

ENGLAND are in one of the easier pools after last night's 1998 World Cup draw in Marseilles. They meet the seeded Romania, and Tunisia and Colombia, with the top two qualifying for the knock-out stage (John Goodbody writes).

Scotland have to play Brazil, four times winners of the 32-nation tournament, in the opening match in Paris on June 10. They also meet Morocco and Norway.

Glenn Hoddle, England's coach, said: "The draw could have been a lot worse but it also could have been a bit easier. All in all we are not too disappointed."

The draw, pages 50, 51, 54

### Right Hons to join queue

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

FORMER Cabinet ministers, forced to accept life without the trappings of power, are facing another cruel blow. After saying goodbye to their drivers, their red boxes and a hefty portion of their salaries, they are threatened with the loss of their traditional pre-decease in Commons debates.

However, it will delight the vast majority of MPs, who are outside the Privy Council and are therefore known as merely "Honourable Members". Many have sat for hours in the chamber with contributions prepared, watching the clock tick by as the time allocated for a debate is eaten up by one ex-office holder after another.

All current and former Cabinet ministers are life members of the Privy Council, which was created more than 500 years ago to advise the sovereign but has now lost

most of its functions to government departments.

Membership, seen as an honour and demands little in the way of duties from most of those who belong, is also bestowed on some senior Ministers of State. Backbenchers with a distinguished record may be appointed Privy Councillors, but only rarely.

The recommendation is expected to come from the Commons modernisation committee in the new year. It has found support among both Conservative and Labour members of the committee as well as from the Liberal Democrats, but would have to be put to a vote of the whole House.

### Halifax raises the cost of mortgages

THE Halifax yesterday delivered a bitter pre-Christmas blow to its 2.5 million borrowers, raising its mortgage rate from 8.45 to 8.7 per cent (Janet Bush writes).

The news meant that relief after the Bank of England's decision earlier in the day to leave base rates unchanged was shortlived.

The Halifax said its move was a response to the bank's increase last month.

A Halifax customer with an average £60,000 variable rate mortgage will pay almost £12 more a month. But borrowers whose payments are recalculated annually will pay as much as £100 more a month from April.

Rate lifted, page 29

Parliament, pages 14 & 15

Night and Day

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## Herd instinct drives new farm labourers to seek fresh pastures

**L**awrence Quinn, MP, represents Scarborough and Whitby. As you would expect in a Member from a North Yorkshire seat, he is worried about the livelihoods of farmers. "Farmers in my constituency ...," he began explaining anxieties to Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister. Nothing odd there.

No, what makes us blink is that Mr Quinn is a Labour MP. Not for 30 years has it been common for a farming constituency to return a Labour Member, but it is now. To

hear the axe-faced Gordon Prentice (Labour, Pendle), who looks and sounds like a Mardi Gras polytechnic lecturer weaned on class war, recite figures for net incomes on hill land is disorienting.

Representing farmers has the same effect on a Labour politician as on a Conservative or Liberal Democrat. The MP falls prey to a sort of incontinence in expression of woe. Every problem is catastrophe, all sunshine drought, every shower a flood. At National Farmers' Union meetings in my constituency, the quantity of milk the Milk

I used to smile at the irony: hardened, wind-tanned, frost-bitten sons of the soil — models, surely, of stoical understatement? — seem to flap at every breeze. Their urban cousins bite the lip.

While I was an MP, shipbuilding in the North East was virtually wiped out; whole communities found their lives destroyed, their future blanched. Around the same time, a Common Market milk quota scheme was brought in, regularising and in some cases limiting the

Marketing Board would buy from each dairy farmer. This affected some farm incomes. The volume of noise from the farms vastly exceeded that from the shipyards.

Gnashing of teeth, wild prophecies, threats and imprecations, almost drowned out the dignified expressions of despair from the shipworkers. Rural market

towns generated more fuss in a month than the whole of Newcastle upon Tyne in a decade.

Perhaps we should not have been surprised. European Agriculture is the last sector of industry still run on Communist principles, and (along with other parts of the public sector, such as doctors and dentists) farmers have learned

from long experience of total dependency upon politicians for their incomes.

So it becomes necessary for observers to pass these outpourings of unbridled alarm through a verbal filter, sealing each adjective down about seven pegs on the rack of human suffering.

Jack Cunningham is well qualified to apply the filter. Languid, quick-minded, poised, articulate and cool, he is one of this Cabinet's surprise stars. To hear Dr Cunningham say "dorsal root ganglia" is one of the unexpected pleasures of 1997. He will have needed his adjectival filter yesterday. It wasn't just the Labour MPs who were upset.

John Greenway (C, Ryedale) called this "an unprecedented crisis". Farmers had "never been so angry", James Gray (C, N Wiltshire) said. Farmers were close to desperation. To Tom King (C, Bridgewater) the farmers' plight was the worst in a quarter century. Nicholas Winter (C, Macclesfield) said it was the worst for 150 years. David Prior (C, N

Norfolk) thought the scale of their problems exceeded by nothing but the arrogance of ministers. Even the rational David Curry (C, Skipton & Rippon) described exports as "dropping like a stone". The Liberal Democrat Paul Tyler (Cornwall N), whose authority is such that these days he is heard almost as Principal Opposition Spokesman, called ministers to action. Join me, reader, in scaling down this language as appropriate. You should still conclude that farmers are in serious trouble.

## Prisoners lose freedom to talk to journalists

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH curbs on the freedom of prisoners to talk to journalists were imposed by the Court of Appeal yesterday when it rejected a ruling that such curbs were in breach of their right to free speech.

In a judgment which deals a blow to investigative journalism, Lord Justice Kennedy said: "The loss of that right, if it can properly be so described, is part and parcel of a sentence of imprisonment."

"He can no longer go where he wishes. He is confined. He can no longer speak to those outside prison or receive visits from anyone other than his lawyer and his relatives and friends."

The judgment reverses the ruling of December 1996 won

by two prisoners who are serving life sentences for murders they say they never committed. Ian Simms, convicted at Liverpool Crown Court in 1989 of the murder of Helen McCourt, was being visited at Full Sutton jail by a journalist, Bob Woffinden, who wrote articles about his concern that he had been wrongly convicted.

Michael O'Brien, convicted at Cardiff Crown Court in 1988 of murder and robbery, contacted Karen Voisey of BBC Wales, who visited him at Long Lartin jail in 1995. The prison authorities said the journalists must sign an undertaking that any material obtained would not be used for professional purposes. When each refused to sign, further visits were not allowed.

Mr Justice Latham, a High

Court judge, found in favour of the prisoners last year, saying that the law demanded that the civil rights of an inmate should suffer only minimum interference. He said the restriction on communication with the media was "a restriction on the right of free speech".

Mr Woffinden, who has produced documentaries for Yorkshire TV and is author of *Hantray - the Final Verdict*, said the ruling placed "a very unfair restriction on prisoners and an absurd restriction on journalists. Miscarriages of justice will continue; and it will not be satisfactory for prisoners to converse in writing because they are often reluctant to put down all the details on paper."

Adrian Clarke, solicitor for the prisoners, said an appeal to the House of Lords was likely. He said that the restriction could create a situation where wrongful convictions such as that of David Evans — the man released after serving 25 years for murder in this week — would be hard to correct.

Paul Cavadino, principal officer for the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "Unless a journalist has abused visits, it cannot be right to bar them from visiting a prisoner and using information in the course of serious journalism about the criminal justice and penal process."



Tessa Jowell with Bernard Kouchner, the French Health Minister, yesterday

## Tobacco ban under a cloud

FROM CHARLES BRENNER  
IN BRUSSELS

THE prospects of an EU-wide ban on tobacco advertising hung in the balance last night as states wrangled over a compromise that would give

Britain an eight-year breathing space for the sponsorship of Formula One motor racing.

The EU's complex voting arrangements meant that even if Britain's demands were met, the EU's eight-year-long campaign to outlaw all forms of tobacco advertising could collapse because of opposition from a minority led by Germany.

After a day of negotiation that featured a surprise move against Britain by Spain, Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, was holding out for a nine-year exemption for weaning sport off tobacco money. The period was deemed too long by Italy, Greece, Belgium and Finland. Pleading for time, Mrs Jowell pointed out that motor racing depended on \$100 million of tobacco sponsorship per year.

A majority of states backed a compromise presented by Luxembourg, holder of the EU presidency, that offered a

temporary exemption of eight years for the tobacco sponsorship of recognised world "events", which could include Formula One.

Hope for a quick compromise collapsed early yesterday when Jose-Manuel Romay, the Spanish minister, upset the voting equation by abandoning Madrid's support for the advertising ban.

"For political reasons," he said, Spain could not tolerate a special case being crafted to suit British desires while Germany's would be overridden by a majority vote for the ban.

Under the draft, member states would have two years to ban media and public advertising, plus two years to phase out tobacco sponsorship. Governments would be allowed to designate special cases for a further four-year exemption provided these were events of international significance that already received tobacco money.

## The day Blair's sister-in-law tried to pick up Alan Clark

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister's sister-in-law Lauren Booth has described how she tried to date the "cold, steely-eyed Lothario" Alan Clark, the Tory MP and former Cabinet Minister.

But after making the attempt, she said she felt like a child who had foolishly poked a stick at a caged panther. Ms Booth, 28, says in *The Spectator* magazine:

The former model recalled how she tried to date Mr Clark at the recent *Spectator* parliamentary awards ceremony.

"My reputation as a Valkyrie-like goddess (encouraged by bored journalists with columns to fill) was at stake as I met that cold, steely-eyed Lothario, Alan Clark," she wrote.

"To leave the awards not having been asked out by him would, I was assured, be seen as a 'sure sign you're a w\*\*\*o'."

"Determinedly, I walked over to him and, smiling as demurely as I dared, announced: 'It wouldn't be good form for either of us to leave here without having arranged an innocent lunch together.'

"Time may indeed have crumpled those aquiline features, but as he turned his full and vaguely amused attention on me, I suddenly felt like a child that had foolishly poked a stick at a caged panther."

"He gave me a cool, brazen appraisal: 'My dear, I was going to ask you anyway,' he

Diary, page 24



Alan Clark is described as a "steely-eyed Lothario" in an article by Lauren Booth, Cherie Blair's sister.

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## Beginning of the end for council tendering

BY POLLY NEWTON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

AS PLANS gather pace for the millennium celebrations vigorous attempts to reclaim the event for Christianity are underway in the nation's churches.

Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government Minister, named 35 areas where councils will be partly exempted from compulsory competitive tendering introduced by the Conservatives. Administrative work carried out by two police authorities, Cleveland and Greater Manchester, will also be included in the change, which begins next April.

A trial system, Best Value, aims to encourage local authorities to provide quality services as efficiently as possible, but without fear of being undercut by a private company offering a lower standard. Councils will be expected to consult local taxpayers before striking a balance between cost and quality.

Ms Armstrong said that authorities must not assume that they could keep all their contracts in-house regardless of cost. At a conference organised by the Local Government Association, she said that support for local government could decline and councils could find themselves under threat of abolition by a future government.

Addressing an audience of clergy and laity at the roadshow, in London for the day, Mr Lynas said: "The millennium is but two years and three weeks away. Yet one of the things we have yet to grasp is the question of whose millennium it is."

Even though the millennium roadshow organised by the ecumenical body, Churches Together in England, will use a straightforward logo, with the words "New Start".

## Church sets out to reclaim 2000 for Christianity

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

public were failing to make this link at present, he said.

"Here in the capital, there is a great expectation about parading, and a lot of rude comment about the Dome. But people don't really know what the millennium is about. We have to remind people that it means something."

He urged a return to the Latin, *anno domini*, "the year of our Lord".

Mr Lynas said: "We must claim the year for ourselves. We actually have to say, this belongs to us. The churches' task for the millennium is to forge a link in people's minds between the year 2000 and the name of Jesus Christ."

He was speaking just days after Peter Mandelson told Parliament that the New Millennium Experience company had been told to concentrate on "spiritual renewal". Mr Mandelson, in a written reply to a question, said the role Christianity had played "in shaping this country and the rest of the world over the past 2000 years" would be emphasised.

But the experience would also reflect the multi-faith nature of British society.

The millennium roadshow, organised by the ecumenical body, Churches Together in England, will use a straightforward logo, with the words "New Start".

## Mandelson fails in nutrition intervention

BY JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER MANDELSON has failed in his attempt to intervene over the role of the Food Standards Agency, the new food safety watchdog.

The White Paper on the agency, which has now been postponed till January, will confirm that the responsibility for nutritional standards will move from the Health Department to the agency.

But Mr Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, had been pressing for nutrition to stay at Health, suggesting that the agency should confine itself to food safety.

Professor Philip James, the scientist who is to head the agency, has argued that the new body should advise on policy on nutrition. Others on the Cabinet sub-committee on the agency, chaired by David Clark, are said to have agreed.

A draft White Paper was circulated last month assuming that this would be the case.

But Mr Mandelson intervened at the last moment.

Whitehall sources suspect that his request was linked to food industry fears that the agency would take a tough line on nutritional labelling which could affect sales. Mr Mandelson has vehemently denied that he has come under any pressure.

Beef box, page 4

Writer who went to school with Prince Charles changed name for career as gossip columnist

# Mystery man who ended in shop doorway

BY ADRIAN LEE, ADAM FRESCO, DANIEL MCGROORY AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

PICTURES of a fresh-faced Prince Charles hang on the panelled walls of Hill House International School at Hans Crescent, near Sloane Square in Chelsea. One, taken in January 1957, shows the eight-year-old Prince arriving nervously for his first day.

One face that could not be found in a gallery of former pupils was that of Clive Harold. Mr Harold told the Prince yesterday that he had taunted him about his big ears and they had swapped sweets as young pupils at Hill House. He recalled how they tramped through the streets of Chelsea to play football.

The Prince, visiting the *Big Issue* office in London, clearly could not remember him, and the school will find no record of Clive Harold having attended. Nor does St Catherine's House have a birth certificate for him.

Indeed, shortly after the Prince and Mr Harold parted, officials from St James's Palace were on the case, ringing Millfield School where Mr Harold said he went after spending two years stranded with the Prince.

Barry Hobson, Millfield's archivist, confirmed he had received a call from St James's Palace. "I spent several hours going through every record we have but I could find no trace of a pupil called Clive Harold. When I called the Palace back and told them we had no records they seemed grateful for the information."

The answer appears to lie in the *nom de plume* Mr Harold adopted for his career as a journalist and writer. He is believed to have been born in Bristol in 1948 under the name of Clive H-Stutter. At Millfield they have a record of a Clive H-Stutter. It is understood the two met when Prince Charles joined Hill House in January 1957.

One major discrepancy in

Mr Harold's story is that he met the Prince when he was five years old. He also claims to have been in the same stream as the young Charles for two years. However, the Prince did not go to Hill House until he was eight, in January 1957, and only stayed for two terms. In October 1957 he moved to Cheam school in Berkshire.

While Charles was being groomed as the Prince of Wales, Mr Harold said he became a journalist, working for *Woman's Own*, *the Evening Standard* and *The Sun*. He claims to be the first journalist to interview the film

**THIS STORY IS TRUE  
BUT YOU'LL WISH IT WASN'T...**  
**BORN AGAIN**  
CLIVE HAROLD

actor Sylvester Stallone, to have written a gossip column for *Woman's Own*, and to have travelled to New York and Hollywood to interview the rich and famous.

During the late 1970s and the early 1980s, when the Prince became engaged to Diana Spencer, Mr Harold was working in Los Angeles as a showbusiness writer interviewing stars for magazines and newspapers. In 1979 he conducted an interview for the *Sun* with the actor Lee Marvin about his life as a hellraiser.

According to one colleague, he was something of a

hellraiser himself. "He had a delightful wife called Lindy and she was right for him because she treated him like a child. He was a showbiz groupie and he often dressed better than the people he was interviewing, with lots of gold and leather jackets."

Mr Harold is believed to have married twice, having Joy by his first marriage before marrying a woman called Eva.

David Durman, editor in chief of *Woman's Own*, *Woman's Own* and *Now* magazine, was deputy features editor in 1982 when Mr Harold worked there between 1981 and 1983. He said: "I don't think even he would pretend he was the best journalist in the world. He attempted to write a gossip column for *Woman's Own* without every worrying about deadlines.

"He dressed the part and looked the part of a gossip columnist, always looking smart and the women fell for it. They loved him and frequently rang the office for him. He was always someone who could have ended up running the *Daily Mirror* as easily as selling the *Big Issue*.

As well as reporting, Mr Harold also wrote a book about encounters with extra terrestrials called *The Uninvited* in 1979, which got to number eight in best seller list. He said: "I sold the film rights to my book in Hollywood but nothing came of it."

According to Mr Harold yesterday, his downfall began 10 years ago when his second marriage failed. "While things were going well in my career, my private life was falling apart. I realised that I had not given enough time to my family and friends. I suppose the booze got me in the end. I lost my house and one day I woke up in a shop doorway in the Strand. I had lost everything."

Continued from page 1



Prince Charles, below, arriving at Hill House school and, above second left, playing football in Chelsea watched by members of the Royal Family



## Prince and the pauper

Continued from page 1

ing came of it. While things were going well in my career, my private life was failing apart. I realised that I had not given enough time to my family and friends.

"I suppose the booze got me in the end."

"I have been married twice and it was when my second marriage failed that things really fell apart. I lost my house and one day I woke up in a shop doorway in the Strand. I had lost everything."

He said, that over the next ten years he fought hard to try to pull himself together, with varying success.

I have joined a writing

class here and teach others to do what I should be doing."

John Bird, *The Big Issue* founder, said later: "The Prince told me as he left: 'It just shows you, doesn't it?'

Mr Harold was selective in the autobiographical information he was prepared to divulge about himself until he accepted a lucrative offer from a tabloid newspaper.

Last night Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Townsend, the headmaster of Hill House, said he could not remember Mr Harold and Millfield School had no record either.

However, journalists colleagues thought Harold was a *nom de plume* he adopted in later years after beginning life as Clive Stutter.

## ... and a rich man returns to rags

BY RICHARD DUKE

A DOWN-AND-OUT rescued from the streets of London by a wealthy German woman has returned to Britain to highlight the plight of the homeless.

Steven Smith and Hannele Gais fell in love more than 13 years ago before she realised that he was a drug addict and sleeping rough. Undeterred, she introduced him to her family in Munich, where the couple married and now live in a £200,000 house. He kicked his drug habit and embarked on a successful career in property.

Mr Smith, 54, has returned to Leeds, where in the 1980s he also slept rough, and hopes to organise a march to London by the homeless to lobby Parliament. To get publicity for his cause he will again sleep rough for two



Steven Smith, now wealthy, and his wife Hannele

weeks, his only currency a phonecard to contact home to Munich.

Earlier this week he shed his designer clothes in a lavatory at Leeds station, to bed down on a camping mat in freezing temperatures. Minutes after the change he admitted he already felt different. "No one looks at you when you are a tramp — you become a nobody."

He added yesterday: "I believe I have to give something back to the life I once lived. It will remind me of how lucky I am. I had been living a life of destruction for five years and would have

continued to do so if I had not met Hannele."

His wife, 42, said: "He feels very strongly about his past and is able to empathise with people living on the street and the hellhole lifestyle they have. I knew I had to let him go back to face old memories and raise public awareness about homelessness."

Mr Smith spotted his future wife in a London pub.

High on amphetamines, he made an approach to her. "I knew she was special. I knew I had to get to know her and that is what saved me."

Mr Smith said he had been determined not to let Hannele go. "A new softer bell was ringing in my head and I felt there was a light at the end of the tunnel. Somehow I got myself admitted to a psychiatric ward and took control of my drug addiction."

Mr Smith said he had been

## Freak wave washed yachtsman to death

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN died when a freak wave swept him off a yacht which his wife had bought him as a 40th birthday present, an inquest was told yesterday.

The 20ft wave washed Paul Andree into the Solent as he accompanied a yachting expert on the *Zoey Ann*'s maiden voyage to Dartmouth, where extra safety equipment was to be fitted. Beverly Andree told the inquest at Portsmouth that her husband was a safety-conscious man. She added that she and Mr Andree, a construction engineer from East London, had been awarded crew competence certificates after attending a week-long course.

However, the inquest was told that Mr Andree had repeatedly ignored suggestions that he wear a lifejacket and harness during the trip on November 8. Andrew Lander, a qualified yacht master, who had been contracted to sail the vessel from its berth in Chichester, West Sussex, to Dartmouth, said that despite worsening weather conditions Mr Andree was not wearing a lifejacket or a harness. "I had said that he should be clipped

but he did not reply. He was not wearing a lifejacket or a harness."

Mr Andree was swept overboard half a mile from Chichester harbour. "He was holding what I assumed was a harness. But it was a main sheet rope. Then another wave broke and he was swept away. I did not see him again."

Mr Lander tried to look for him but the engine failed. He threw out a marker buoy and lifebelt and signalled mayday. James Kenroy, the East Hampshire Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.



Andree was not wearing harness or lifejacket

## Wife who ran away with boy walks free

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MARRIED woman who ran away to America with a boy aged 14 admitted several charges when she appeared before a High Court judge in Nottingham yesterday.

The 33-year-old mother admitted gross indecency with the boy — who was then 13 — between June 1 and September 1 last year. She also pleaded guilty to two charges of indecent assault and of abducting a child.

Nottingham Crown Court was told the woman and the boy had had a consenting sexual relationship for a year before they flew to the United States to start a new life. They were arrested by the FBI in July this year after spending ten days travelling in Florida.

Mr Justice Potts put the woman on probation for two years on each count, to run concurrently. He said he took into account the boy's own maturity, the punishment she had already endured, and the effect — custodial sentence would have on her family.

I fully recognise ... that the boy was a willing and active participant in what went on. I also proceed on the basis that at all times you and



'Customers are very angry. They do not believe there is a danger from organically fed prime beef'

## Shoppers rush to buy banned cuts of beef

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

**BUTCHERS** were besieged yesterday by customers rushing to stock up on ribs of beef, sirloin, oxtails and T-bone steaks before the Government's ban on bone-in cuts comes into force.

Supermarkets said beef sales generally were holding up well and reported little sign of alarm among shoppers over the latest scientific warnings about possible risks from "mad cow" disease in beef sold on the bone.

The Ministry of Agriculture was unable to say exactly when the ban would take effect. Supermarkets have already voluntarily withdrawn beef on the bone but many butchers said they would go on supplying customers until ordered to stop.

Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, said he planned to implement the ban "as soon as possible". Officials said the aim was to implement the ban after a week or ten days of consultation.

Roger Kelsey, of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, which represents 10,000 independent

butchers in England and Wales, said: "The risk from beef bones is absolutely minimal, as the scientists admit. We are telling our members that until the ban becomes law, they should go on selling what their customers want."

David Lidgate, who runs one of London's oldest butchers in Holland Park Avenue, said: "We had a tremendous run on ribs of beef this morning, with several dozen snapped up. Trade was probably ten times the normal rate."

Gordon Hepburn, national chairman of the Guild of Q Butchers, also reported brisk demand for bone-in beef at his shop in Mounnessing, Essex.

"My very first customer this morning wanted three ribs of beef and an oxtail and asked me to put aside another few oxtails for the weekend."

John Grabowski, proprietor of F. Bosworth Butchers in Loughton, Essex, said: "We have had people coming in panic-buying. One chap bought six T-bone steaks to put in the freezer."

Joe Collier, of Eastwoods Butchers in Berkhamsted, said he had sold a week's worth of ribs in one day. "Customers are very angry. They do not believe there is a danger from organically fed prime beef."

About 5 per cent of beef is eaten on the bone. Sales are worth £150 million a year, with £70 million sold through shops and £80 million via

hotels and restaurants.

Dr Cunningham decided to ban bone-in cuts on advice from the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee that BSE infectivity had been found in dorsal root ganglia, nervous tissue lying with the bone of the spinal column. The research also showed that

infectivity might be present in bone marrow in cattle already showing clinical symptoms of BSE, though this finding is regarded as "provisional". The scientists said tests had failed to detect any infectivity in muscle, meat or blood.

The risk to the public is described as extremely small. It is estimated that next year only three out of 2.2 million cattle slaughtered for human consumption will be near enough to the end of the incubation period for BSE to raise the possibility of infectivity in muscle, meat or blood.

Irish lorries' representatives last night called on their members to challenge blockades at ports in Britain. The Irish Road Haulage Association said drivers should not return to Ireland, as they have done since Sunday when the protests began. Brian Farrell, its spokesman, said the 4,700 member companies had lost too much money to tolerate further blockades.

Leading article and Letters, page 25

Taking stock pensive farmers at Murton livestock centre near York yesterday. Butchers, however, reported increased sales of bone-in beef

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## Chefs take stock as customers refuse to swallow scare stories

By ROBIN YOUNG

I DICED with BSE yesterday at a cost of £50 plus service. At Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane in London's Mayfair, the management were struggling with the implications of the Government's latest disclosures about the connection between beef bones and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of BSE.

"The bouillon oxtail with red wine and truffle essence is off," announced Nico Ladenis, the chef-proprietor, consigning the lead item on his £74-a-head gastronomic menu to the dustbin. "We cannot serve that

with the scare that is on at the moment."

There was pointed out Paul Rhodes, the chef de cuisine, four litres of oxtail stock for the bouillon already prepared. "Then I will have a big bowl myself," Mr Ladenis said, suddenly learning.

I joined him. "If people order it specifically, well and good," Mr Ladenis said. He added: "We are not so much affected as some. Since 1976 I have made my basic brown sauce principally from chicken stock but there are some veal and beef bones in too. Just a few in a very large pot, to add a little extra gelatine." The

consequence, Mr Ladenis found on analysing his menus with Chef Rhodes yesterday, was that three more dishes included in the 11-course gastronomic menu might require modification when the government ban on beef bones in food preparation comes into full force. All but one dish among the meat and offal main courses on the restaurant's *a la carte* menu would also be affected. "The worst would be if I had to take off the calf's sweetbreads," Mr Ladenis lamented. "That is an absolute delight."

The sweetbreads, like the pigeon, duck breast, veal cutlet and to a less

extent the saddle of lamb, employed sauces in which the veal and beef bones made a small but significant contribution. The fillet of Scotch beef, though usually served without sauce and "safe" off the bone, could be at risk if customers asked for a sauce accompanied.

The milk-fed veal cutlet, which I chose as my main course, was especially risky because, though of Dutch origin, it was served on the bone, and no one could tell me that the calf from which it originated was less than six months old at death.

"The usual killing age for veal is

more like nine months or just under

a year," Mr Ladenis said. "If beef and veal bones cannot be used any more then we will have to make our brown sauce entirely with chicken bones and reduce it further to make it stronger. We could get extra gelatine from beef sinew but it is not the same as bones and I think would not be as good."

Other customers in the dining room tucked into fillet steaks, BSE publicity and a £12 supplement notwithstanding. "I gave up paying attention to health experts years ago," one said. "I am 68 years old. If I contract BSE I will be ga-ga when I am 80. So where is the news in that?"

Ladenis sipping his oxtail soup yesterday

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prime beef  
All in the game as poultry market goes wild

# A simple step that shuts the door on chaos

If THE Englishman's home is his castle, the front doorstep is the closest he has to a drawbridge. A doorstep is the threshold which nobody crosses except by invitation.

From the humblest country cottage and the artisan's terrace house to the grandest mansion in Belgravia, there is hardly a dwelling in Britain without a doorstep. It keeps the outer world at bay and lends a little dignity to every entrance. More than that, it is a place where a milk bottle can be left without seeming abandoned for any-one to seize.

A million housewives scrubbed front doorsteps, not just to put on a show to the world but to remove summer dust or the attentions of any passing dog. When streets had no paving, doorsteps came into being to divert water into rudimentary gutters.

In a deluge, the step stopped water from pouring under the front door. This is no small matter in recent years when some shopping streets have been pedestrianised, shopkeepers having found rainwater gushing in. Even in the late 17th century, many London houses had

The front doorstep is to be banished by new building regulations. Marcus Binney dwells on its cultural significance

basements, often with the kitchen at the front. To win a little light, the ground floor was raised a few steps so that a better window could be introduced. When front basement areas became common in the mid-18th century, front doors were raised still higher to provide more light and air for basement rooms below.

A raised front doorstep is a feature of terrace houses all over Europe and North America. The canal-side houses of Amsterdam had a "stoep", a flight of four or five steps to raise the main rooms above flood water, and this was repeated in the much taller stoops of New York "brownstones", where New Yorkers came out to chat on hot evenings.

It is inevitable in this age of regulation that the doorstep should be abolished. A few years ago, in Gibraltar, Treasury regulations deemed that any army house with a step or two at the front door was sub-standard. The military had to

forsake elegant Regency houses in the old town for new, Aldershot-style boxes, shrouded in mist for much of the year on the southernmost point of the Rock.

The doorstep is thought to have become a widespread feature of townscapes in the Victorian era (Rachel Kelly writes). Richard Holder, senior architectural adviser to the Victorian Society, said: "Chimneys belched soot and doorsteps did get filthy. Local government was so disorganized that the business of roadsweeping was not carried out."

In this century, doorsteps proved a feature of popular culture, from the music-hall song *On Mother Kelly's Doorstep* to scenes in *Coronation Street*. They enable the traditional act of carrying a bride over the threshold. "Somehow, carrying your bride over a slope doesn't seem quite the same," Richard Pollard, secretary of Save Britain's Heritage, said.



Making an impressive entrance: earlier this century, a spotless doorstep was a matter of domestic pride

## Solicitor in dock over angry remark

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SOLICITOR who was driven to remark privately that the court clerk was a "silly cow" is facing a disciplinary investigation after being reported by a police officer.

Arnold Rosen, a London solicitor, is being investigated by the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors after speaking his mind to his client who was on charges of false accounting at Woodspring Magistrates' Court at Weston-super-Mare.

His comments were made after he had sought an adjournment in the case and the Bench had withdrawn to consider his request. While waiting, he had a conversation with the defendant, standing in the vicinity of the dock.

His exasperation arose over

what he saw as the court clerk's intervention in his request for an adjournment and putting forward of points as to why his request should not be granted.

Yesterday Mr Rosen said he could not confirm the use of the words "silly cow". But he added: "These words were in accordance with my sentiments at the time."

*The Shropshire Law Journal*, which reported Mr Rosen's case, said: "In a perfect world, perhaps solicitors should not vent their displeasure to their clients. In the less than perfect world in which we live, they often do." So, it adds, do police officers. "If each were to be reported to the OSS or the relevant chief constable, where would we all be?"

— Moët & Chandon. Turning nature into art —

## Probation defended by judge for killer

By RICHARD DUKE

A JUDGE accepted yesterday that he was open to criticism for placing a mentally disturbed killer on probation.

Judge Michael Coombe said he believed doctors' evidence that Stacey Adams, 59, who stabbed Diana Bristow 42 times, could be treated for his illness rather than detained in hospital.

An Old Bailey jury had earlier cleared Adams of murder but convicted him of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The judge said: "I suppose in the circumstances of this case, I would have had in mind a light term of about three years."

However, the judge said that Adams had had almost the equivalent of a three-year term in custody while on remand. "It is right that I should stress that... because it may be that members of the public might criticise me because it may appear he has got away without punishment. He has already had a deprivation of liberty."

Miss Bristow, 59, and Adams were staying at the same house in Thornton Heath, South London. Dr James Anderson, who has been treating Adams at the medium-secure Braxton Centre in Bexley, said he had identified an "organic defect" in his brain. "He was isolated, depressed and extremely frightened and aroused at the time of the killing."

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# Embattled opera chairman resigns

By DALVA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of the Royal Opera House resigned yesterday, a day after the publication of scathing accusations in a parliamentary report on Covent Garden's management. The drama of Lord Chadlington's departure was heightened by the unprecedented move of the entire board offering to resign.

The chairman described his decision as the honourable thing to do. "In the end, I felt I don't want to be regarded as a public figure who sits on the fence until someone pushes them off," he said. "I've only been there a year, but the responsibility lies with the board. I must give a lead, as a matter of honour."

Only Mary Allen, the chief executive, was adamant that she would stay on. Miss Allen said she asked Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, yesterday whether she should resign. "He replied, 'absolutely not. It is essential there should be stability within the companies.'"

The board members found themselves unable to ignore calls by Gerald Kaufman and the Culture Select Committee, whose report was littered with criticisms and accusations of incompetence; they had found the financial plans so abysmal that they took the extraordinary step of recommending that the house's grant be withdrawn unless the entire management stepped down.

Accusing the ROH chief executive, chairman and board of being unfit to handle

"I have only been there a year but the responsibility lies with the board. I must give a lead, as a matter of honour."

public finances, the report attacked their delays in finding temporary theatres during the 2½-year closure and the lack of any detailed financial plans. It also lambasted the Arts Council's slackness in monitoring the allocation and expenditure of lottery funds.

The board yesterday reiterated its "unanimous support" for Miss Allen. Like many in the arts world, they felt she had been unfairly singled out because she had been in the post for only three months. Miss Allen has been inundated with flowers, letters, and cards of support from staff and leading musicians such as the conductor Bernard Haitink. What has dismayed many in the house is that the Arts Council refused to publish the independent Walker-

Arnott report and released a summary that omitted a crucial section which concluded that Lord Chadlington and Miss Allen were on the right track.

Mr Kaufman said he was awaiting news of the chief executive's resignation, as recommended by the Select Committee's report. It was the circumstances that they had attacked — the way she moved from the post as secretary-general of the Arts Council without properly consulting Lord Gowrie, her chairman. "Given her experience of public office, Miss Allen's conduct fell seriously below the standards to be expected," the report said.

The chairman of the Select Committee said he was not surprised that Lord Chadlington had resigned so promptly. "I think his response is proper and appropriate. I take no pleasure in it whatsoever," he said.

The board offered to stay on as caretakers until a newly constituted board was in place. Sir James Spooner, the deputy chairman, will assume control. He said: "The board wishes to pay tribute to Lord Chadlington who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Royal Opera House and has steered it courageously through this period of transition and financial difficulty."

Yesterday Lord Chadling-

ton said his resignation was with immediate effect and it was up to the board to discuss the next step with the Secretary of State. "I had decided some days ago that, whether I had stayed or left, we had to change the entire culture of the opera house," he said.

"I would do anything that was necessary to change that culture. But as chairman of the board, it doesn't matter how long you're chairman, you must believe in the proper way. I've been going to the ROH since 1964. I've seen almost every production of opera and ballet. It was my second home. It will continue to be my second home when it reopens. There is no lack of enthusiasm or a wish to take on the challenges. But there is so much criticism in public life for not doing what one ought to do. I am chairman, I must be the one who takes the can."

Meetings between Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, and members of the ROH and Arts Council were hurriedly arranged yesterday afternoon.

While the meetings were taking place Mr Kaufman told *The Times*: "I knew there was a problem with regard to the ROH. I thought there was something wrong with me not understanding why there were performances in so many different theatres. I thought maybe there could be an explanation that it was a very good thing to do. As the inquiry proceeded, the nature and dimension of the problems became clearer."

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Arts, page 33



Allen: adamant she will stay as chief executive



Lord Chadlington after quitting as chairman of the Royal Opera House yesterday

SIMON WALKER

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Stalker who broke ban remanded

A man who became the first person to be prosecuted under the Protection from Harassment Act, which is intended to deter stalkers, was remanded in custody for a week yesterday after he admitted breaking a court order not to contact his former partner.

Michael King, 53, from Haresfield, Gloucestershire — who was fined £250 in October for stalking Sonja Townsend, 49, from Tuffley, Gloucester — admitted contacting Mrs Townsend twice by telephone. He denies a further charge of assault causing actual bodily harm. Gloucester magistrates adjourned the case for medical reports until January 6.

### Vice man jailed

A homosexual prostitute was jailed for life at Bristol Crown Court for murdering a client's mother. Martin Dunnett, 32, battered Gladys Parker, 84, when she found him stealing from the bungalow she shared with her son David.

### Escaper accused

Pearse McCauley, 32, who escaped from Brixton Prison in 1991, was remanded in custody at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin, accused of murdering a detective during an IRA raid on an Irish post office van last year.

### Crushing success

More than 100 untaxed vehicles have been crushed in London after motorists failed to retrieve them from a pound within five weeks. A further 600 have been wheelclamped, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency said.

### Cavalier thieves

The most likely cars to be stolen are old Vauxhall Cavaliers, the Home Office said. More than one in ten 1980-82 models was stolen last year. The 1983-85 and 1986-88 models fared almost as badly. The 1986-88 MG Metro was fourth.

### Cab too cold

Commuters were stranded when their Brighton-London train was cancelled because the driver's cab was too cold after its heating failed. Alan Lester, a passenger, said: "It's a disgrace. Can't he wear a jumper and a pair of gloves?"

## Icelandic visitors topple Middle East's big spenders

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ICELANDIC bargain-hunters spent more in Britain per head last year than traditionally deep-pocketed visitors from the Middle East, Japan and the United States.

More than 50,000 Icelanders — double the previous record — headed for London and cities in Scotland and northern England for a spending binge in shops, theatres and restaurants. Icelandic taxes of

24 per cent on most goods make Britain an increasingly attractive destination for buying CDs and videos, and clothes, especially for children. British nightlife is also now a strong attraction for holidaymakers who last year included Liverpool on their destination list.

Godi Sveinsson, marketing director of Urval-Ustir, Iceland's biggest tour operator, said: "Icelanders love a good time and the Liverpool people are very friendly and jolly. The city is also very clean

and small enough to walk around, so we will be running more tours there next year."

The high-spending Icelanders, who normally visit for a week, are well ahead of visitors from the Middle East, who spend £90 a day, North Africa (£85), Japan (£83) and America (£70). Visitors from Central and Eastern Europe spent £28 a day. Last year's figures about travel trends are disclosed by the Office for National Statistics.

The British holiday love affair with Spain and Greece is shown to be waning with half a million fewer visits to each country than in 1995. Greece slipped from the third most popular destination in 1986 to the eighth favourite last year.

Spain remains the most popular holiday destination for Britons, with 7.5 million people staying there each year, ahead of France, with 6.3 million. Almost 4 million day trips and business journeys make France the leading destination in total number of visits, at

10.2 million almost twice as many as ten years ago.

Long-haul holidays by Britons rose by 14 per cent on 1995, while visits to European destinations grew by only 1 per cent. Central and South America had a 48 per cent increase in the number of British visitors, to 206,000, and the Caribbean, visited by 534,000 Britons last year, had a 39 per cent growth. Visits to the United States grew by 16 per cent to 3 million. Belgium, helped by increased

Channel Tunnel traffic, and Turkey attracted much larger numbers of Britons than in the past.

The British love of foreign parts meant that Britain continued its trading deficit with other countries. Almost £5 billion more was spent by Britons abroad than by visitors to this country.

□ *Travel Trends*, Office for National Statistics (1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ; £30)

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# Southern comfort gives men the best hopes of a long life

BY MARK HENDERSON

MEN living in Cambridge, Guildford and Woking can expect to live nearly seven years longer than those in parts of Manchester and Liverpool, researchers have found.

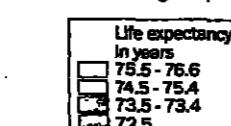
England's longest-lived women — from Bromley in southeast London and Dorset — have a life expectancy four years greater than in Manchester and Liverpool.

The study in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* shows that the five poorest health authorities in Britain record the shortest male longevity. Life expectancy has risen much faster in wealthy parts of the country, while in inner London it has increased at a rate well below the national average.

The report's authors, Veena Soni Raleigh and Victor Kiri of the University of Surrey, suggest that more suicides, murders and accidental deaths, including drug overdoses, among male residents of deprived areas are to blame, along with higher rates of heart disease and lung cancer. They plan further research.

Men in Cambridge can expect to live an average of 76 years and seven months, against a national average of 74 years one month. Men living in Manchester, England's poorest health authority, have a life expectancy of 69 years 11 months. Women live on average to 81 years five

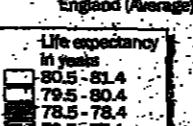
MEN		
Rank	Health authority	Life expectancy
1	Cambridge	76.8
2	West Surrey	76.4
3	East Surrey	75.2
4	Bromley	75.0
5	Dorset	75.0
6	Bromley	75.7
7	North Essex	75.6
8	South Cheshire	74.4
9	Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster	73.9
10	Walsall	73.5
11	South Birmingham	73.1
12	St Helens and Knowsley	72.6
13	South Tyneside	72.4
14	West Pennine	72.1
15	Camden and Islington	71.8
16	South East London	71.7
17	East London and the City	71.7
18	Liverpool	71.2
19	Manchester	69.9
England (Average)		72.1



months in Bromley and Dorset, but to 76 years and eight months in Manchester. The national average is 79 years six months.

East and West Surrey, Barnet and Solihull also score well for male longevity, with Manchester, Liverpool, East London and the City, south-east London, and Camden and Islington at the foot of the table. Bromley and Dorset are followed by Cambridge, West Surrey and Exeter and North

WOMEN		
Rank	Health authority	Life expectancy
1	Brumley	81.4
2	Greater London	81.3
3	Cambridge	81.1
4	West Surrey	81.1
5	Surrey	80.9
6	East Surrey	80.8
7	North Essex	80.4
8	South Cheshire, and Westminster	80.4
9	Leeds	79.5
10	South Cheshire	78.4
11	South Birmingham	78.0
12	St Helens and Knowsley	78.0
13	South Tyneside	77.9
14	Southwark, London	77.8
15	Wales	77.1
16	East London and the City	77.1
17	West Pennine	77.0
18	St Helens and Knowsley	76.8
19	Liverpool	76.4
20	Manchester	76.7
England (Average)		77.9



Devon in the women's table, with Liverpool and Manchester joined by Sunderland, St Helens and Knowsley, and West Pennine at the bottom.

The five authorities with the lowest male life expectancy come lowest on the Jarman index of social deprivation, used by the NHS to allocate funds to GPs. Bromley, West Surrey, East Surrey and Solihull are all among the least deprived health authorities.

She said women lived longer than men in all areas, but that the difference was most marked in poor health au-

thorities. "Men in deprived areas are much less well than women," she said.

Richard Smith, chief executive of the British Medical Association publishing group, said the figures corresponded to evidence that men living in poor communities were at highest risk of dying from accidents, suicide or violent crime, including drug overdoses.

"We are seeing external factors which have particular effects in men," Dr Smith said. He added that the report indicated that health education messages were not getting through to the poorest, with poor diet and heavy smoking and drinking causing above-average levels of lung cancer and heart disease.

He said squalid council housing was a major factor behind the figures, explaining the much larger number of winter deaths recorded in Britain.

Stroke risk slight for women on the Pill

BY IAN MURRAY

THREE women in 100,000 on the Pill have a very slightly increased risk of thrombosis compared with women not using oral contraceptives, according to research carried out in five European countries including Britain. That number would be reduced if doctors avoid prescribing the Pill to women with high blood pressure or other evidence of heart disease.

The research, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, involved women aged between 16 and 44, 220 of whom had suffered a stroke and 775 who had not. They had been on the Pill for at least three months.

The researchers found a risk of a stroke for women on the Pill but that is small because the illness affects so few in this age group.

## Cell transplant to foetus developed

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TRANSPLANTS in the womb can cure common, inherited blood diseases. The relatively simple technique has to be carried out on foetuses aged between 12 and 15 weeks in order to prevent rejection.

The diseases are genetic disorders of the red blood cells that cause anaemia and painful crises when they cannot deliver oxygen properly to the body. Sufferers may require hundreds of blood transfusions throughout their lives.

The disorders, which include sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia, can be diagnosed at about the twelfth week of pregnancy but until now no treatment has been available. Researchers at Nottingham University who have been studying primitive blood-forming cells discovered some that can be used for transplantation into an affected foetus. These "stem cells" have the capacity to produce red blood

cells almost exclusively and are therefore uniquely suitable for transplantation into a foetus affected with a disorder.

Ultrasound is used to guide a fine needle through the mother's abdomen and into the abdomen of the foetus, where a small volume of cells is injected. So far only 30 babies worldwide have been treated this way and there have been remarkable successes, although further research will be needed.

Rhodri Jones, who heads the research team, will describe the operation today to the British Society for Immunology congress in Brighton.

"The foetus does not develop a fully competent immune system until after 15 weeks, so even a mismatched tissue can be transplanted without rejection occurring," he says.

"Most importantly treatment can be offered before any damage has occurred."



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## What's safe to eat depends on where you are

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

DIETARY guidelines issued by official sources are confusing, contradictory and may often give bad advice, according to a pressure group dedicated to the pleasures of food and drink.

A study carried out by Arise, (Associates for Research into the Science of Enjoyment), looked at dietary guidelines across 21 countries and found huge variations in recommended food allowances.

While the World Health Organisation recommends a maximum of ten eggs a week, the Department of Health's Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy has recommended only one and the British Heart Foundation four.

Recommendations about alcohol vary equally widely. France tops the table, recommending a maximum intake for men of 60 grams a day (seven to eight glasses of wine), while Sweden puts the figure at less than one glass of wine a day. Britain comes in the middle of this table, at four glasses a day for men and three for women. Germany makes no recommendations at all.

Advice on salt reflects a similar confusion. Germany was at the top, suggesting a maximum of 10 g a day while Sweden, at the bottom, suggests 2 g. Poland and a quarter said they felt guilty about eating it.

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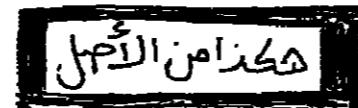
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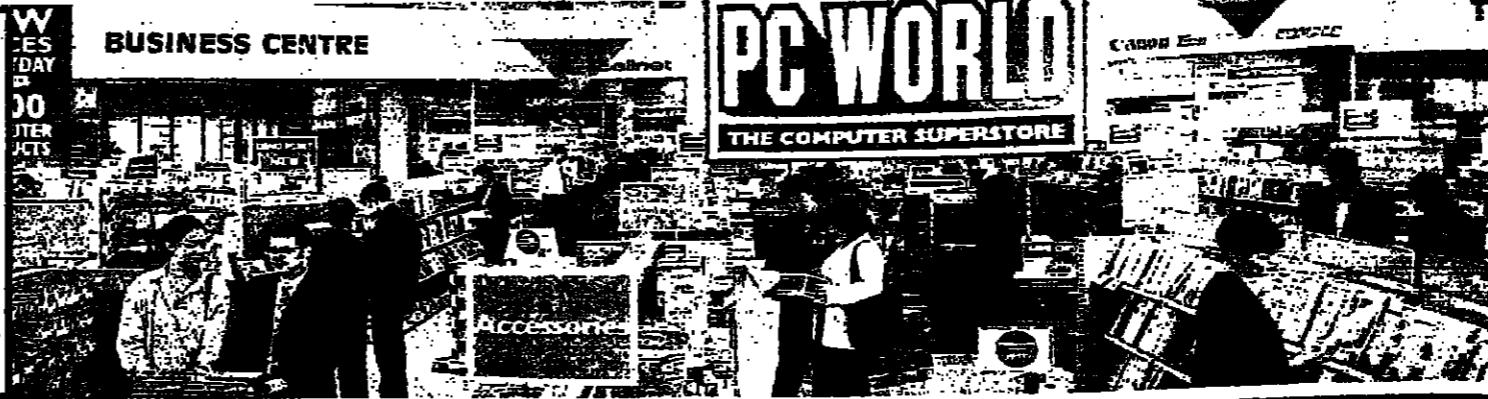
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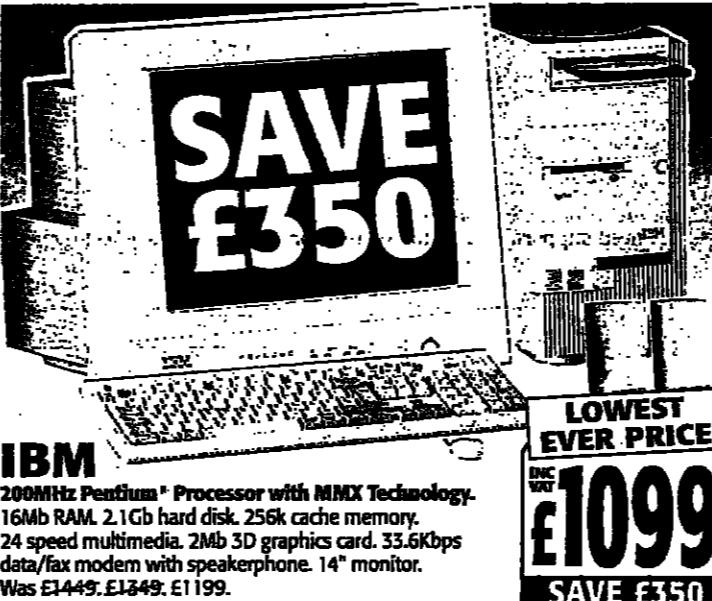
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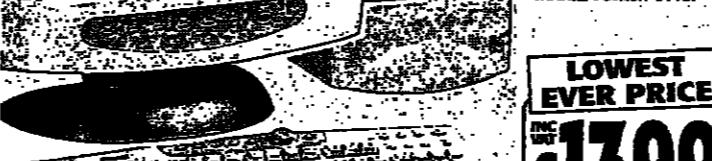
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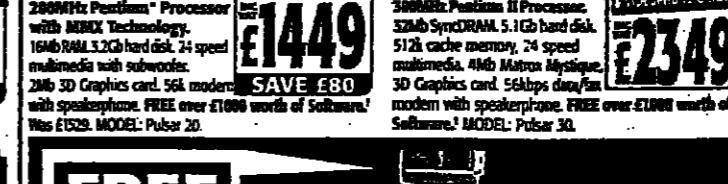


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# The media under surveillance

Valerie Elliott visits the government unit that is keeping a 24-hour watch on the nation's news output

ALL new Whitehall press officers are to experience the hothouse of government by working for a period at the new media monitoring unit.

The unit opened this week, offering ministers and government departments a 24-hour run-down of breaking news and a digest of the newspapers. This fast service aims to enable departments to rebut rogue stories and to provide swift briefings for ministers, many of whom had complained that the Government press service was not as efficient as the Labour Party operation at Millbank.

In a small office on the eighth floor of the Central Office of Information building near Waterloo station, about eight staff are providing a 24-hour service by working a three-shift system. It may not be the most glamorous job in Whitehall, but they say that they enjoy the buzz of being first with the news.

The staff are monitoring a bank of ten television screens showing BBC1, BBC2, ITV,



On guard: a member of the unit's staff monitoring the bank of television screens

RICHARD POOLE

Channel 4, Channel 5, News 24 hours, CNN, Sky, Ceefax and Teletext. Each channel is being recorded on video tapes that will be stored for two weeks before being reused.

Radio news bulletins and news and current affairs programmes such as Radio 4's *Teddy* and *The World At One* are also recorded.

An overnight review of papers is faxed to each departmental head of information by fax. Mike Grannatt, head of the Government Information and Communications Services, said that it had already enabled him to correct early morning radio and television bulletins.

A team of volunteers has been recruited to staff the unit for a pilot three-month period. Permanent staff are expected to be recruited in February.

After only four days in operation the unit has yet to prove its worth. The No 10 press office has praised the overnight review of the newspapers, but some press officers complain that the unit's sum-

maries of news broadcasts are too long. One advantage is that departmental press officers no longer need remain glued to their televisions and radios at lunchtime. The digest of lunchtime bulletins

was faxed to each department at 1.45pm yesterday.

Ministers are also booking specific services. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was in Kyoto for the environmental summit yesterday, asked for any references to the summit that had appeared on the Internet. As he is to appear on *Breakfast with Frost* this Sunday, he also requested a fax to Japan on Saturday night with a digest of

day, asked for any references to the summit that had appeared on the Internet. As he is to appear on *Breakfast with Frost* this Sunday, he also requested a fax to Japan on Saturday night with a digest of

Sunday newspaper stories. The Department of Health asked yesterday for details of tobacco sponsorship stories so that it could brief Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, who was at talks in Brussels.

The unit's staff were pleased yesterday to learn about the resignation of Lord Chaddington, chairman of the Royal Opera Board, before the Department of Culture press office. The unit also informed the Transport Department about the Virgin train fire at Watford that led to the line to London Euston being closed.

But it is clear that the news digests must be used swiftly by departments to correct any inaccuracies. There was some dismay, for example, that reports that 750,000 savers would lose tax relief under the new individual savings accounts scheme were not picked up earlier. The Government believes that the real number of savers who will be worse off will be 300,000.

John O'Sullivan, a government press officer for 30 years, is on secondment from the Crown Prosecution Service as head of the unit. His motto is "If in doubt, shout". Government press officers and civil servants can expect the late-night call, and it might not be from a reporter.

## Ministers are succumbing to a rash of reviews

THE Government cannot see a problem without setting up a review. Getting on for a hundred inquiries, reviews and task forces have been created since the election — and yesterday we had the first royal commission, on long-term care, with the promise also of an inquiry into the causes of BSE. This follows the announcement on Monday of a commission on the voting system under Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, and the broadening a few weeks ago of the remit of the Neill committee to cover the whole area of political funding.

Government by review, complain the critics, while Whitehall cynics argue that ministers only set up inquiries when they know what will be recommended.

Inquiries do serve a purpose, or rather several purposes. Typically, they are set up as a way out of a pressing political problem, but they often lead to unforeseen consequences. The Neill committee was hurriedly created by John Major in October 1994 after a wave of "cash-for-questions" allegations as a way of showing that public standards in Britain were generally high. Few Tories then foresaw how radical its proposals would be, but the committee had an authority which could not be challenged.

Similarly, during the Ecclestone affair, Tony Blair invoked the committee as a solution to everything to do with party funding. But in his haste new problems have been created. The Government has already promised action — on banning foreign donations and requiring disclosure of the names of donors of above £5,000 — which prejudices the Neill committee's work. Ministers are also considering regional spending limits in the European elections and for the contest to become London's mayor, which cut across the committee's work.

The voting commission is a more calculated political exercise. It fulfills a pledge to the Liberal Democrats and defers a tricky decision which Mr Blair is not yet ready to take. It is not, however, just a delaying tactic. Although Lord Jenkins and his hard-headed group are unlikely to suggest anything unacceptable to Mr Blair, they still have a wide choice of possible systems — and their recommendation may form the basis of a new consensus.

The Government mainly uses reviews to establish the widest basis of support for controversial changes. Such inquiries seldom discover new facts; there is usually a vast weight of existing evidence. Their brief is to come up with practical options out of the many available.

The Dearing inquiry on student and university finance was set up by Gillian Shephard with the backing of her then shadow David Blunkett to take the issue out of pre-election politics and to produce a long-term answer. That has made it less hard for Mr Blunkett to push through his proposals on student fees.

Royal Commissions went out of fashion during the Thatcher years. She and her advisers thought they knew the answers and did not

**RIDDELL**  
**ON POLITICS**

want the type of time-wasting commissions which Harold Wilson liked — though Britain would have been better off if some of the proposals (for example, of the Salmon commission on standards of conduct in public life) had been implemented. But the new one on long-term care has been asked to report within 12 months and may provide the authority of the good and the great for inevitably tricky and costly solutions.

The remit of the proposed BSE inquiry is still unclear. No one wants a repeat of the sprawling Scott investigation. Is the aim of any inquiry to be primarily historical — identifying what went wrong, why and when? There are dangers in trying to hunt for the guilty. There is also the possibility of compensation for victims of CJD, and therefore questions of immunity.

In the end, however much reviews and inquiries may shape, and take forward, the public debate on tricky issues, they are no substitute for politicians themselves taking tough decisions.

PETER RIDDELL

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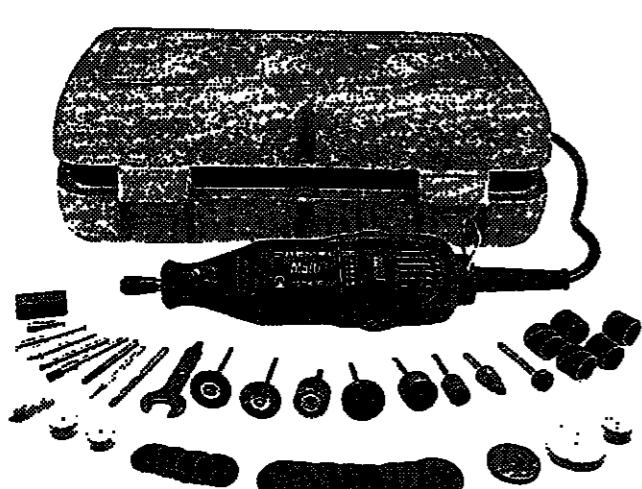
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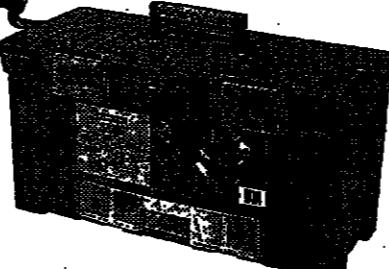


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### Bulgaria in Crisis

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There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

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The European Children's Trust

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Please act NOW - winter is coming

# Sinn Fein MPs to challenge Speaker's ruling

By NICHOLAS WATT  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



GERRY ADAMS and Martin McGuinness are to challenge the Speaker in the House after she confirmed her decision to ban them from the Palace of Westminster.

After a 30-minute meeting with Betty Boothroyd yesterday, Sinn Fein's two MPs denounced her ruling as "undemocratic" and vowed to take their case to the European Court of Justice.

Miss Boothroyd vigorously defended her decision, saying that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness had excluded themselves from the Commons by refusing to swear the oath of allegiance to the Queen. In a statement to the Commons, she said that they were demanding "associate membership" of the House. "Such a status does not exist. There is no halfway house."

Two weeks after the general election, Ms Boothroyd barred Mr Adams, the MP for West Belfast, and Mr McGuinness, the MP for Mid-Ulster, from using Commons facilities because they refused to take up their seats. Sinn Fein MPs have always refused to swear the oath of allegiance because they reject British jurisdiction over Northern Ireland. But during the election campaign Mr Adams declared a new policy of "active abstentionism", saying that he would decline to take his seat but would use the office facilities at Westminster.

Miss Boothroyd, who met Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness in her office, told the Commons that she had listened carefully to their arguments. But swearing the oath was a legal requirement that

Downing Street next week. "It's a strange absurdity of the way British democracy works. It shows once again that in relation to Ireland, British democracy doesn't work."

He condemned the Speaker's ruling as discriminatory and unjust. "It's part of the knee-jerk, old agenda at a time when that agenda was about marginalising and demonising people, about denying people their rights."

Later the Sinn Fein MPs won support from a Tory former Northern Ireland Minister, Peter Bottomley (Worthing West), who said: "It should be possible for any elected MP to choose that they affirm that they will abide by the democratic process and enable them to take their seats. We cannot expect republicans to have falsely to swear allegiance to the monarch."

Letters, page 25



Gerry Adams, centre, and Martin McGuinness being welcomed by supporters as they arrived for their meeting with the Speaker yesterday

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# Corporate wife wins \$20m in divorce

America is split over whether staying at home is a sacrifice, Bronwen Maddox reports

**LORNA WENDT** and her husband Gary were both claiming victory last night in a divorce case watched across America as a test of the value of "the corporate wife". Mrs Wendt, 54, turned down \$10 million (£6 million) to fight for \$50 million, and got \$20 million.

The divorce suit bringing an end to the Wendts' 31-year marriage was that legal rarity: a top-dollar case which went to trial rather than settlement. But the nation has also split over the question of whether, if a wife stays home, it is her sacrifice or his loss of a second income.

Despite Mr Wendt's vehement claims of victory, Wednesday's ruling by a Connecticut judge is widely seen as shattering a "glass ceiling" where divorced wives could expect to get only what they "needed", instead giving them what they have "earned".

The Wendt saga has struck chords nationally, partly because it is the tale of a couple who followed the American Dream from a small Midwestern town to become millionaires. Mr Wendt, 55, is the head of GE Capital, which makes about a third of the profits of General Electric, the aero engines-to-toasters giant.

The couple were originally high-school sweethearts from Rio, a Wisconsin community of 700 people. He was a popular sports star and played the trombone in the band; Lorna, the daughter of a minister, played the oboe. When they married, they had just \$2,500. Mr Wendt went to

Harvard Business School while Lorna worked as a music teacher, earning a "PHT" certificate - "putting hubby through" - from the Harvard Dean's wife.

Mr Wendt moved the family several times to Houston, Atlanta, then Coral Gables, Florida, before settling in Stamford, Connecticut. According to Mrs Wendt, she raised their two daughters, now in their late twenties, and as the family moved, took charge of packing up and selling their houses and giving away their pets.

As Mr Wendt's star rose, she was hostess for black-tie dinners for 90 at their house, making small talk with impor-

tant foreign guests. She says that less than two weeks after she gave birth to the couple's first child, her husband's secretary called to say he wanted her to hold a dinner party for 12 that evening at their home.

Her former husband says this picture is a myth and that she refused to have parties at home except the company Christmas party. He spoke of his "dreadful ungratefulness" at home, which led the couple to seek marriage counselling three times in the past decade.

Two years ago, when the marriage broke down, he says he offered his wife \$11 million, half his assets then. She rejected it, forcing a public trial. In her view, the marriage was an "economic partnership" to which she contributed half. Her husband's view is that "I've worked hard. She didn't". He has also said: "Do feminists now want equality without effort? Is that the new equality?"

After this week's ruling, Mrs Wendt will get a package estimated at \$20 million. It includes two houses, and half the couple's cash and shares, half the dividends from her husband's GE shares, and \$25,000 a year in alimony. She will also keep two memberships to exclusive private clubs, and a Macy's department store credit card, giving

her a 45 per cent lifetime discount.

Most controversially, given the corporate fashion for locking in top staff with share options, she will also get more than a quarter of her former husband's future stock options and retirement bonus. Her husband contested this, saying that this money depended on his future hard work.

She claims victory on the ground that the award recognises her value. Her spending averaged \$120,000 a year for clothing, \$8,000 a month for travel and \$1,350 a month for make-up and hair.

The exact reasoning of Judge Kevin Tierney is not yet public; he has released only 25 pages of a 465-page opinion. Nor will the case set a legal precedent unless it goes to appeal. But it will still be studied because it appears to set aside time-honoured principles of divorce awards.

In Connecticut, like many other states, assets are subject to "equitable distribution", normally meaning a 50-50 split, but when tens of millions of dollars are involved, most judges rule that "enough is enough": anyone should be able to live on several million dollars.

Mrs Wendt now plans to develop her recently created Foundation for Equality in Marriage. Her former husband says he has "found true happiness" with Rosemarie Adams, a divorced 64-year-old grandmother. He plans to marry his new partner - provided that she signs a pre-nuptial agreement.



Lorna Wendt leaves court in Stamford, Connecticut, after the divorce hearing

## Disney chief's \$565m payday record

By GILES WHITTELL

THE chairman of the Walt Disney Company has cashed in accumulated bonuses worth more than half a billion dollars - a landmark in American corporate history.

Breaking all records for the single biggest executive pay day, Michael Eisner, a combative studio chief with a degree in English literature, sold a tranche of eight-year-old Disney stock options at an estimated profit of \$565 million (£353 million).

In an exquisite piece of understatement, Mr Eisner acknowledged through his press office that the deal "will undoubtedly provoke much discussion".

A similar transaction five years ago, in which he realised \$202 million of shares triggered indignation comment about US boardroom earnings - not least from Disney theme park employees on little more than the minimum wage.

In the deal announced on Wednesday, Mr Eisner bought 7.3 million shares at heavily deflated prices, set in his contract in 1989, at less than \$20 per share, and sold 5.4 million of them at the day's market rate of \$95 a share.

Such deferred stock options have become a standard incentive in top executives' pay packages, since they can prove wildly profitable if the company performs well but worthless if it falters.

Mr Eisner's salary has been fixed at \$750,000 a year since he arrived at the company from Paramount Pictures. He is thought to have earned about \$1 billion while at Disney, and in addition has a stake in the company now worth around \$5-6 million.

Spread over the nine years during which they matured, the options sold on Wednesday amounted to a daily wage for Mr Eisner of around £100,000.

## Congress blunder drives India to unwanted election

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

INDIA faces an exhausting, expensive and unwanted general election - the second in less than two years - after President Narayanan dissolved parliament yesterday. It will be a pointless poll, the consequence of a blunder that marks yet another low point in the state of politics.

The Congress party, which has governed India for most of its 50 years of independence, brought down the United Front coalition, believing it could lead a new multi-

party administration pieced together from the old one. But almost no party would join - a sign of how low the reputation of Congress has sunk.

There have been three governments since the last elections 18 months ago, one of which lasted just 13 days, and there is no prospect that the new polls will produce anything less chaotic than those of May 1996. Congress, rarely treated to such grassroots contempt, is plainly incapable of getting anything like a majority in the Lok Sabha (lower house), ensuring India remains in the unfamiliar and unstable territory of

coalition politics. The rise of regional parties, based often on linguistic affinities, has been matched by a phenomenal increase in support for the hardline Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has blood on its hands from anti-Muslim riots. It also played a central role in the 1992 destruction of the 16th-century Babri mosque by Hindu fanatics in Ayodhya.

The polls will be held early next year, probably in February. Sitaram Kesri, the 83-year-old leader of Congress, almost single-handedly toppled the Government on the pretext

that it included a Tamil party implicated in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister. His miscalculation is one of the great political blunders of modern India.

He had hoped enough members of the 14-party United Front coalition would defect to him to form a new administration, but he underestimated how loathed Congress has become for its destructive bids for power.

The electorate will do its best to punish his party severely. The biggest beneficiary is likely to be the BJP, which is comparatively disciplined

and articulates a nationalist philosophy that appeals to many Hindus. But it includes extremist elements that threaten the fragile relationship between Hindus and India's 130 million Muslims.

All the prime ministerial candidates will have blood or corruption on their hands, presenting India's 980 million people with an unsavoury selection. The political upheaval means the business of government is now on hold, with devastating consequences for the economy and, indirectly, the 450 million Indians who live in poverty.

## Rwanda troops chase Hutu prison escapers

FROM DAVID OER IN KIGALI

THE Rwandan Army said yesterday that it had engaged Hutu rebels in heavy fighting after they freed some 500 inmates of a prison in central Rwanda on Wednesday. Four police guards and six civilians died in the prison raid by 300 armed guerrillas.

It is not known how many died when the army struck back, but the death toll could be high. The Rwandan Patriotic Army, dominated by minority Tutsis, is gaining increasing notoriety for the brutality of its counter-insurgency operations. Hundreds of unarmed civilians, mostly Hutus, are being killed

every month in army sweeps in the hills where rebels are believed to have their bases.

The escapes from the prison in central Gitega province were members of the Hutu majority detained on suspicion of involvement in the 1994 genocide, which claimed the lives of at least half a million people.

This latest rebel attack points to a growing confidence on the part of Hutu extremists bent on overthrowing the largely Tutsi Government. Never before have they struck so deep into the interior of the country. Since they were routed by an invading Tutsi force

Wednesday's raid is the second assault on a detention centre this week. More than 100 prisoners were reported to have been freed in a rebel attack in northwestern Rwanda on Tuesday. Two weeks ago, some 300 people died when Hutu guerrillas took on government troops at a jail in Gisenyi in northwestern Rwanda. The army later said 88 prisoners had died in "crossfire" and that 93 inmates had escaped. The rebel death toll was put at 200.

Three and a half years after the genocide, Rwanda is still locked in a vicious cycle of murder and revenge. Hardly a day goes past without people dying violent deaths in the tiny central African nation.

The Government that came to power in 1994 hoped the Hutu extremists' Interahamwe had been dealt a fatal blow in the civil war that followed the genocide. Some were arrested but most fled to refugee camps in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo).

When the bulk of Rwandan Hutu refugees returned home late last year, so did many extremists. Still more returned from Congo this year, following the Rwandan-assisted overthrow of the late Zairian dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. Again arrests were made, pushing the already crowded Rwandan prison population to 120,000.

But, as the frequency and intensity of rebel attacks increased, it is clear the Interahamwe are far from vanquished.

A Rwandan boy passes burnt-out administration offices after a Hutu attack near Kigali yesterday

reports published in the journal Science. The red planet's rounded pebbles and cobbles and the abundant sand-sized and dust-sized particles... all appear to be more Earth-like than previously recognised.

The report appears to confirm the first impressions of Nasa, which aimed the craft to land on Mars to search for evidence of life.

MARS was at one time more like the Earth than we thought, according to new analysis of data from the Pathfinder mission Nasa said yesterday.

Measurements taken on its surface

Gamble cost the Getty Trust \$400m

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

ONE of the world's richest art endowments, the Getty Trust, has admitted losing nearly \$400 million (£240 million) in a single year because of a bad guess on the way the stock market would go.

Fearing a market plunge in the 1995-96 financial year, the fund's trustees invested heavily in complex stock-index options designed to pay off if share prices fell. When they roared ahead instead, the defence mechanism cost the trust \$397.2 million.

The revelation of this backfire in over-cautious investment tactics comes days before the opening of a vast new \$1 billion Getty museum and art institute on nearly 600 acres overlooking Los Angeles. The new Getty Centre's original budget of \$360 million has ballooned over the ten years it has taken to design and build.

Combined with costly recent art-buying sprees and the investment losses announced in the Los Angeles Times yesterday, the huge construction project has eroded the trust's image of having limitless wealth.

Founded with the \$1.2 billion oil fortune left by J. Paul Getty on his death in 1976, the trust rode out successive bull markets in the 1980s and early 1990s to stand at over \$4 billion by mid-1995. Then John Whitehead, trustee and former investment banker, advised "hedging" against a market crash.

The strategy was implemented by three Wall Street banks including one, Goldman Sachs and Co, at which Mr Whitehead had been co-chairman. When it failed it cost the trust a dollar for every dollar its portfolio gained during the 1995-96 market surge.

Mr Whitehead this week defended his tactics, likening them to buying a life insurance policy without actually wanting to die. But when one of his successors was asked if such a tactic would be tried again, he said: "Not in my lifetime."

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# Mothers grieve as Winnie denies killings

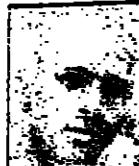
RELATIVES of some of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's alleged murder victims stormed out of hearings yesterday in which she denied any part in the disappearance and murder of their sons. Nelson Mandela's former wife spent hours denying any wrongdoing after eight days of testimony implicating her in a township reign of terror.

Caroline Sono, the mother of missing Soweto youth Lolo Sono—who, several witnesses said, was last seen alive, but badly beaten, with Mrs Mandela—demanded to know what had happened to her son. Walking out of hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mrs Sono shouted: "She's the woman who murdered our children. I will not rest until I find my son's remains." Accompanied by Nomusa Tshabalala, the mother of Lolo's friend Siboniso, who also went missing when he sought out Lolo at Mrs Mandela's Soweto mansion in October 1988, she said that the hearings had been "a complete sham".

The "coach" of the scuppered Mandela United Football Club, Jerry Richardson, said on Monday that he had helped to kill the two boys. Their bodies were dumped in a disused mine after their throats were cut on the orders of Mrs Mandela. They have never been found.

According to evidence read to the commission, Mrs Mandela's driver at the time of Lolo's disappearance, Michael Sekamela, was due to have told the inquiry that he also saw the youth with his employer before he vanished. But the driver disappeared on Monday after allegedly receiving a phone call from Mrs Mandela.

She described allegations that she had been present during the abduction and torture of four youths and several other murders as ludicrous, hallucinations, lunatic statements and fabrications, although many of the 43 witnesses said otherwise. Coquettish at the start of the



Archbishop Tutu wrings out an apology and admission that "things went wrong", reports Sam Kiley in Johannesburg

hearings, she offered a weak defence in the face of horrifying testimony. This came from senior African National Congress members of the South Africa's Government, witnesses and victims themselves, who alleged that she had ordered at least six killings and enthusiastically taken part in torture sessions in which she beat young men so hard that her whips broke.

By the end of the day only

Archbishop Desmond Tutu,

**I speak to you as someone who loves you very deeply, who loves your family deeply,**

chairman of the commission, was able to extract a mild apology after a tearful address to Mrs Mandela in which he begged her to acknowledge that "things went wrong" in the late 1980s.

"I speak to you as someone who loves you very deeply, who loves your family very deeply. I wanted to say to you, let us have a public meeting where you could say: 'Things went wrong and I don't know why they went wrong.'

"There are many out there who would want to embrace you if you were able to say something went wrong ... and say I'm sorry for my part in it," said the archbishop at the end of a day heavy with grief over her alleged victims.

The hearings inevitably focused on the death of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, whose maimed body was found on waste

ground after he had been abducted by the Mandela United Football Club in December 1988. Mrs Mandela was fined for the abduction of the youth in a 1991 trial but continued to insist yesterday she knew nothing about them, nor the dead Stompie. At least eight witnesses said earlier she had presided over the kidnapping and Mr Richardson confessed to having killed the boy on her orders.

Mrs Mandela said after the archbishop's tearful plea: "It is true, things went horribly wrong ... I am deeply sorry."

Only hours before the apology, Joyce Seipei, who sat through harrowing details of her son's death with her three-year-old daughter, had been threatened by members of Mrs Mandela's Women's League in the lavatories during a break at the hearing, reducing the woman to tears.

Archbishop Tutu condemned the intimidation. "It is disgraceful behaviour from persons who are mothers themselves—and it is also a criminal offence—towards a mother whose child was gruesomely killed. I condemn it in the strongest possible terms. If we have sufficient evidence, we will press criminal charges."

Mrs Mandela attempted to paint the commission as an arm of the ANC and suggested that she had been called to testify before the 50th party conference because senior ANC members wanted to block her to become its deputy president. The allegation was denied by Dr Alex Boraine, a commission member, who reminded Mrs Mandela that it was she who had called for a public hearing while the commission would have preferred to hear her case behind closed doors.

JUST as advocate Sanjay Makaniya had Winnie Madikizela-Mandela on the ropes and on the verge of admitting that her alibi in the murder of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei was a lie, yesterday's hearings at South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission went from Perry Mason to Oprah Winfrey.

With her claim to have been out of town the day after Stompie's abduction proved to be untrue, Mrs Mandela was gasping for an answer when she was saved by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa's favourite uncle, and chairman of the commission, takes the "reconciliation" part of the commission's role especially seriously.

"I think we should do something now we have been meaning to do for some time," he said. "Would the victims and families of the victims please come up to the front? It

has been traditional that we recognise the agony of the victims by standing up and reflecting on their pain."

The bemused victims, some of whom had accused Mrs Mandela of murder, shuffled forward. Their lawyers, who were anxious to get their teeth into President Mandela's ex-wife, were plunged into confusion as Joyce Seipei, Stompie's mother, was grabbed by the woman who many witnesses alleged had tortured her son and ordered his killing. Mrs Mandela hugged her and kissed her on the lips, grasping her by the shoulder while photographers captured the moment.

Set up to investigate human rights abuses between 1960 and 1994 and to hear amnesty applications for political crimes, the commission is not a court of law. Almost toothless, its most dramatic sanction can be to deny amnesty, and recommend that the police investigate any abuses.

The commission's finding on the hearings into Mrs Mandela and the activities of her gang of bodyguards, the Mandela United Football Club, may not be published for months. A criminal prosecution of Mrs Mandela, if the commission suggests it, may then take years to complete.

Over the 18-month life of the

commission's hearings, held all over the country, witnesses and Archbishop Tutu have broken down as they recalled torture sessions at the hands of the white Government's security police. The police themselves have sometimes also broken down and begged for forgiveness. One or two have even crossed the halls where the hearings have been held, in tears, to embrace the families of their victims.

The process, many South Africans say, is cathartic. "We cannot move forward until we know everything that has happened. And then learn to forgive, if not forget," one newspaper columnist wrote.

The problems come when major players in the apartheid drama refuse to understand this. Some amnesty applicants, such as those in the Steve Biko murder case in 1977, cannot forget that they are supposed to make "full and frank confessions", and continue to claim that their victim "banged his head against the wall during a struggle" — thinking perhaps that they are in the dock on a murder charge.

The former President, P.

W. Botha has refused to acknowledge a "subpoena" to appear today at hearings into the State Security Council he chaired, saying the process was a "circus". He will face two years in jail if he does not turn up in Cape Town.

Real problems come for the commission when members of the new ANC establishment like Mrs Mandela take the stand. Few sympathise with Eugene de Kock, who ran the "Vlakplaas" death squads. But how does one approach a hero of the struggle like Mrs Mandela? The answer, judging from the past eight days of commission hearings, is gently.



Winnie Mandela embraces Joyce Seipei, mother of the murdered teenage activist Stompie, at the truth commission hearing yesterday

## Tutu treads softly over wounds of past

**South Africa's favourite uncle puts the emphasis on reconciliation at truth hearings, Sam Kiley writes**

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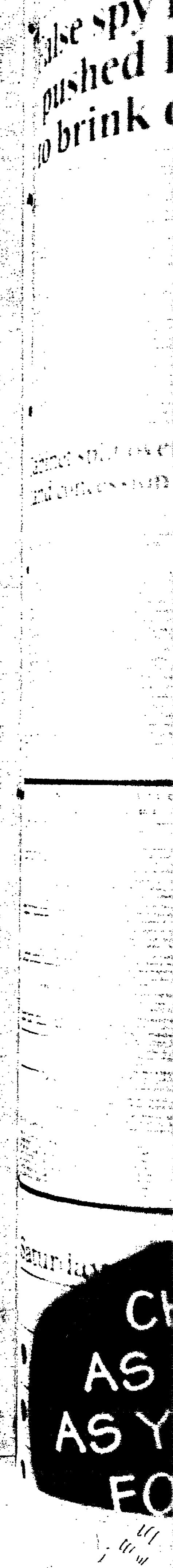
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Why Kylie's up for grabs  
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THE SUNDAY TIMES



THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

# False spy reports pushed Israel to brink of war

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL has set up a panel to investigate an espionage scandal after the disclosure that the country nearly went to war against Syria last year because of disinformation believed by Israeli intelligence.

"That episode and the collapse of Syrian-Israeli peace talks [in 1993], is now being examined by a high-level committee that will investigate the supply of misleading and false information about Syria," reported the Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz*, whose veteran defence analyst, Zeev Schiff, exposed the latest spy affair.

The paper added: "The danger of war lurked late in the summer of 1996 when Syrian forces were observed making unusual movements from Beirut and across the Bekaa Valley to an area northeast of Mount Hermon."

"Israeli intelligence received reports from a source long considered dependable that

the Syrians were poised to launch a lightning strike on [the occupied] Golan Heights. The purpose of the supposed attack was to reconquer part of the Golan and use it for leverage in renewed negotiations with Israel."

After the initial *Haaretz* disclosures, the first official confirmation of the scandal came from David Levy, the Foreign Minister. He told Israeli television that an investigation was under way, but argued that the issue had to be seen in its proper context: "If you rely on one source without integrating it with others, you are liable to fall prisoner to every piece of information," he said.

The latest shadow to fall over Mossad, the once renowned Israeli secret service, came with the organisation already under investigation for the botched attempt to assassinate a leading member

of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Jordan on September 25.

All three Hebrew papers led with the new scandal yesterday, but none identified the false source who, according to Israel radio, had deliberately misled successive Israeli governments. A senior Western diplomatic source said: "It would seem that this was either an agent in place in Damascus or a Syrian in exile abroad, regarded as having impeccable contacts with the regime of President Assad."

The embarrassing disclosures have revealed just how close the Middle East was to war between September and November 1996. At the time, I was part of an official Israeli trip to the northern border and saw that Israeli forces were on high alert, although officers would give no reason and insisted that all reports on the alert be filed through the military censor. He prevented me from disclosing that scores of tanks were heading north through the Jordan Valley.

*Haaretz* revealed that at the time Washington was sceptical of the information, as its own sources reported no sign of impending Syrian aggression. Damascus passed diplomatic messages through various governments, maintaining that its troop movements were only defensive. "In the field, Israeli military intelligence observed that the Syrian army had not assumed an offensive deployment," *Haaretz* added. "On the basis of that conclusion, Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak refrained from mobilising reserves."

In a separate development, the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report* disclosed that Mossad is now fully operational in London again after a ten-year break resulting from its expulsion by Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister, as a result of three cases which allegedly broke its agreement with the British Government.

als during four hours of talks on Wednesday and two more yesterday.

"I cannot say that there are substantive decisions," said an aide to one of the participants.

Israeli press reports claimed differences between "skinny cabinet" members David Levy, the Foreign Minister, and Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, on one hand, and Mr Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon, the Infrastructure Minister, on the other on the amount and location of land to be ceded.

Leaks suggest that Israel is prepared to offer only another 6-8 per cent of occupied land in this phase of the three withdrawals. The Palestinians are demanding 30 per cent and Washington is insisting on at least 10-12 per cent.

Israeli officials said that Mr Netanyahu and the three senior ministers in his "skinny cabinet" had been unable to complete withdrawal proposals.

## Cabinet split over land concession

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAEL has failed to decide how much more West Bank land it prepared to hand back to the Palestinians in advance of a key meeting in Paris today between Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State.

The talks, to be followed by more between Ms Albright and Yasser Arafat in Geneva tomorrow, represent her second attempt in three weeks to revive the stalled Middle East peace process. Similar meetings in Europe last month achieved little.

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Japanese maiko dancers pass a Greenpeace protest at the Kyoto conference

## OVERSEAS NEWS 19

# Europe pressed to bear brunt of emission cuts

Japan wants the poorer EU members to meet the same reduction target as richer states, reports Nick Nuttall in Kyoto



JAPAN, backed by America and Australia, raised the temperature at the world climate conference in Kyoto yesterday when it suggested that European states should bear the brunt of cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases.

Europe wants all industrialised nations to reduce carbon dioxide discharges by 15 per cent by 2010. But the way it plans to meet this high target came under fire from Japan, which said it was unfair and possibly illegal.

Under the scheme, dubbed the European Union "bubble", less developed member states such as Greece and Portugal would be allowed to increase their emissions over the coming years by up to 40 per cent. The increases would be offset by deeper cuts by the more developed northern member states such as Germany, Britain and Luxembourg. They would reduce emissions by up to 40 per cent so that Europe as a whole achieves its 15 per cent goal.

Japan said that if Europe stuck to its plan for the industrialised world, it should take on higher targets than rival economies. Toshiaki Tanabe, Tokyo's Ambassador for Global Affairs, said: "Some countries in the EU will have a heavy burden but others do not have to bear such a large burden. Acting together, Europe will achieve greater advantages."

He suggested that Japan would be at an economic disadvantage to countries such as Spain, and especially France which, by claiming its emissions are already low because of its big nuclear industry, enjoys a zero reduction target under the "bubble". Under the Japanese proposal, whatever is agreed in Kyoto next week could force Europe to carry out much deeper emission cuts than America, Japan and the rest of the industrialised world.

Melinda Kimble, the United States Secretary for Global Affairs, said yesterday that a European-style arrangement was not open to America and other big industrialised countries. Europe saw itself as a single economic entity as it moved closer to economic and monetary union, while Washington took the view that Europe remained "15 sovereign states".

Environmental groups said it was no coincidence that the attack on Europe came from countries whose own proposals for the industrialised world were far more modest.

Insurance lobby: Support for international efforts to combat global warming is now emerging from global insurance and re-insurance companies. Many, concerned that a warmer planet would be devastating to the insurance business, are using their massive presence in global equity markets as a threat to publicly listed companies to act fast environmentally or risk a sell-off of their stock. (Reuters)

## Second conference on war booty to target Nazi looting

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE London conference on Nazi gold ended yesterday with general agreement to open any remaining archives, a rapid winding up of the Tripartite Gold Commission and a call by America to hold a follow-up conference next year to discuss the return of art and other property looted by the Nazis.

The 240 delegates representing 41 countries agreed to hold another meeting at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington to resolve remaining claims, including bonds and insurance policies, by individuals and their families. Stuart Eizenstat, the American Under-Secretary who drew up the US report on Nazi gold, said: "We must not enter a new century without completing the business of this century. We have collective responsibility to leave this century having spared no effort to establish the truth and to do justice." At least five countries have agreed to con-

tribute to the fund Britain set up in New York to help the 300,000 remaining elderly victims of Nazi oppression.

Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Greece and Luxembourg said they would contribute. France and The Netherlands said they wanted to set up their own funds for French and Dutch victims, but have not ruled out possible contributions. France is entitled to 2.2 million tonnes of gold, almost half the amount remaining in the gold pool.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the former Lord Chancellor who chaired the three-day meeting, said in his summing up that the discussion had been extremely useful — "free, frank and productive".

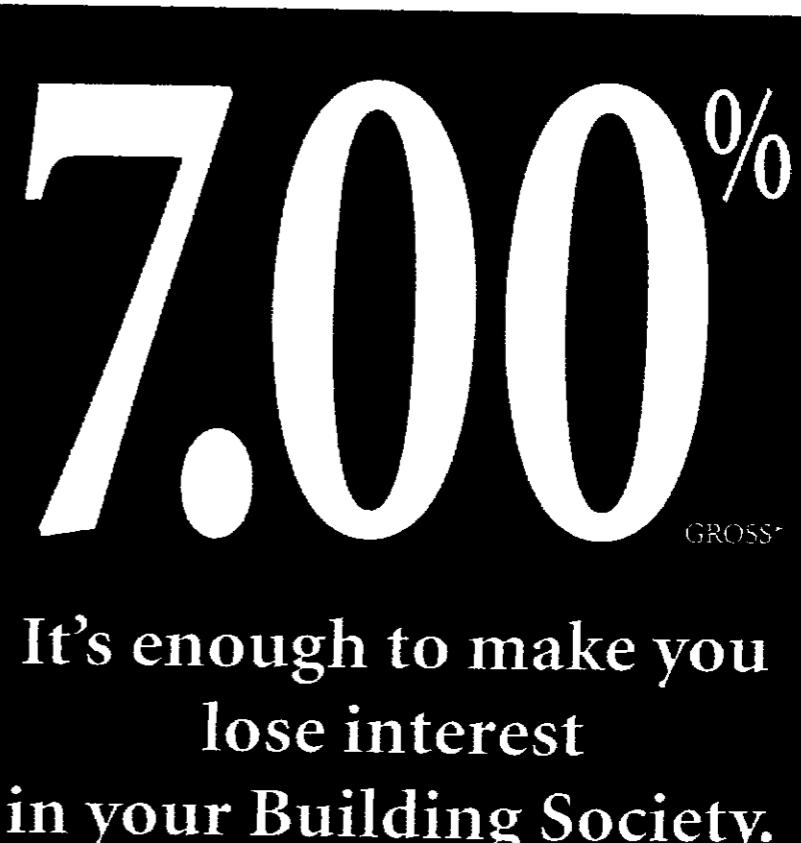
It had not been one of recrimination, but of constructive examination of present action and future plans. But he made clear that it was still not known how much gold the Nazis stole, and probably never would be.

A main result was the promise to open archives. The Vatican, however, has not responded to any of the calls for it to publish its own archives on the issue, and the two observers did not speak throughout the conference. Lord Mackay said they made clear from the start that they did not wish to take part.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who called the conference, said that it had achieved its objectives and marked a step change in the efforts of the international community to "locate the truth about this dark period of European history".



Eisenstat called for justice to be done



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## Woody Allen's lost laugh at Nixon

BY JAMES BONE

A NEW television station has unearthed a never-aired 1971 TV film by Woody Allen lampooning President Richard Nixon and is seeking his permission to broadcast it.

*Men of Crisis: The Harvey Wallinger Story* stars Allen as the top aide to President Nixon in a clear swipe at Dr Henry Kissinger, his Secretary of State. The 25-minute mock documentary juxtaposes Allen with a Nixon lookalike and uses news footage of bumbling politicians.

The fictional Wallinger got his PhD in needlework from Dr Kissinger's alma mater, Harvard University, and set a record by graduating 96th in a class of 95.

Allen wrote the film in ten days and shot it for state-funded public television just in time to be shown for Nixon's triumphant re-election campaign—before Watergate. The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) shied away from broadcasting it, however, apparently because it feared the wrath of the thin-skinned Nixon.

William Baker, president of New York's public television station WNET, received a video-cassette from an executive who had worked on the film.

# Iraq planned to bribe UN weapons team

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq was convinced he could bribe most of the United Nations arms inspectors to turn a blind eye to his secret chemical and biological weapons programme, William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, disclosed yesterday.

However, the Iraqi leader realised he would not be able to buy the US and British officials, Mr Cohen said.

Speaking at a joint press conference in London with George Robertson, his British counterpart, Mr Cohen warned Saddam that the confrontation between Iraq and the UN Special Commission (Unscom) responsible for weapons inspections was not over.

"The crisis has been put on hold, not resolved," he said.

After thanking Britain for backing the United States by sending a military force to the Mediterranean for potential strike missions against Saddam's war-facilities, Mr Cohen said a senior Iraqi military officer who had recently defected had given details of Saddam's plans for developing weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraqi defector, he said, had disclosed that Saddam planned to "hide, conceal and

secrete these weapons, that he was convinced Unscom was just a temporary nuisance and that they could be bought anyway".

Mr Cohen said Saddam believed "he could bribe the officials with the exception of the American and British".

"Fortunately, that's not the case, fortunately we have inspectors who are doing a heroic job and they are very professional," Mr Cohen said.

He felt it was his duty, he said, to keep telling everyone what the Iraqi leader was trying to achieve.

"He has been lying from the very beginning. He denied he had any biological weapons programme but the inspection team discovered 2,100 gallons of anthrax, one spore of which could kill you after a few days," he said.

Mr Robertson made it clear that HMS Invincible, the aircraft carrier which was deployed from the Caribbean to the Mediterranean and is equipped with RAF Harrier GR7s as well as Navy Sea Harriers, would remain in the region for as long as it was necessary to maintain military pressure on Saddam.

The statement was issued as Iraq ranked Mr Butler among its "enemies" and said his mission to persuade Baghdad to open all sites to inspection was bound to fail.

against Iraq if necessary to ensure unrestricted UN access to all facilities in the search for chemical and biological weapons. Mr Robertson and Mr Cohen said.

Mr Robertson said that, if Saddam continued to defy the UN, "he knows there are forces there from at least two countries, and probably from more, up against him".

Richard Butler, the Australian head of Uniscom, is due to visit Baghdad next week and both Mr Cohen and Mr Robertson said he must be firm in demanding "unfettered" inspections for weapons of mass destruction.

"If he has nothing to fear, then he should have no objection to the UN inspectors going into these facilities," Mr Cohen said.

□ **Iraq cleared:** The International Atomic Energy Agency, based in Vienna, said yesterday that Baghdad did not resort to illegal nuclear activities between October 29 and November 20, after the UN inspectors had left the country.

The statement was issued as Iraq ranked Mr Butler among its "enemies" and said his mission to persuade Baghdad to open all sites to inspection was bound to fail.

John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever*, which evolved from a piece of fiction

## Disco fever writer is staying a lie

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE British journalist who wrote the magazine article on New York's disco culture that became the film *Saturday Night Fever* has confessed that he made it up.

Nick Cohn said the character played by John Travolta in the 1977 film was a composite of a Brooklyn disco-goer glimpsed in a doorway, a teenage gang member in his hometown, Derry, and Chris, a mod from London. "I faked it," Mr Cohn admits in a piece marking the twentieth anniversary of the movie in *New York*, the weekly in which the original article appeared.

"There was no excuse for it," he writes. "At the time, if cornered, I would doubtless have produced some high-flown waffle about Alternative Realities, tried to argue that writing didn't have to be true to be, at some level, real. But of course, I would have been full of it. I knew the rules of magazine reporting, and I knew that I was breaking them. Bluntly put, I cheated."

The confession means that the *Saturday Night Fever* phenomenon now popular among a new generation, is based on a journalistic myth.

Travolta's hip-swinging character, in his white satin suit and open-necked black shirt, is a plain impostor.

Mr Cohn describes how he crossed the Atlantic after an energising spell in London in the 1960s to find New York pale by comparison. In need of an "energy fix" not available at the usual record company parties, he trawled the streets for colourful characters and came upon a black discodancer called Tu Sweet.

Acting as his guide, Tu Sweet took him to the now famous 2001 Odyssey disco in the Italian-American enclave of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

Mr Cohn's piece was published under the heading "Tribal Rites of the New Saturday Night." Soon, Fever mania set in.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Ecologist accused of killing

Paris: A prominent elected official of the French Green Party was arrested early yesterday for allegedly stabbing to death his wife's 36-year-old lover in what was described as a classic and brutal *crime passionnel* (Ben Macintyre writes).

Alain Tredez, 49, a senior member of the regional council of northern France and a flamboyant ecology campaigner, was seized by police outside the home of his alleged victim in Dunkirk.

According to judicial sources, M Tredez appeared to have launched a frenzied attack on his rival, who has not been formally identified.

### Italy ships more Albanians home

Rome: Two Italian naval vessels ferried more than 400 Albanians across the Adriatic to their homeland while hundreds of others awaited deportation at airports and ports in southern Italy, after a decree for their expulsion which came into force on Sunday. Authorities were shutting down the last of the church shelters that have hosted some 17,000 Albanians who fled the turmoil in their homeland earlier this year. (AP)

### Palme suspect may be retried

Stockholm: Christer Pettersson, 50, who was convicted but later acquitted of the 1986 murder of Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, may face a new trial, according to reports here. New evidence makes it possible for the prosecution to ask the Supreme Court for a retrial. Palme's widow, Lisbeth, positively identified Pettersson as the killer. (Reuters)

### Mother sent son to paedophile

Belfort: A French mother, 36, was jailed for two years, one suspended, for prostituting her 14-year-old son. The paedophile to whom she sent him was given four years, one suspended. Paid between Fr30 (E3) and Fr50 for each visit, she said she "wanted to have a bit of money hidden away from my husband". (AFP)

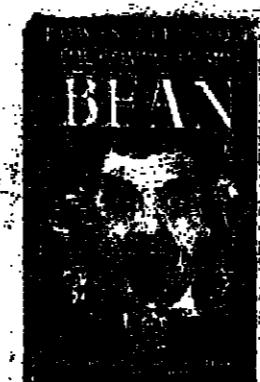
### No-sleeping pills

Dhaka: Taslim Uddin, 60, a businessman in Bangladesh with three wives and 13 children, has not slept for 13 years despite high doses of sedatives, a newspaper reported. Doctors said he seemed to have suffered no ill effects from his insomnia. (AFP)

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مكتبة الأعلى

# Holland ready to fill gaps in ranks with boy troops

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THE Dutch Army is considering recruiting 16-year-olds in a desperate attempt to fill ranks severely depleted by the abolition of conscription almost a year ago. The army is almost 25 per cent below its required strength.

Under human rights legislation, the youngsters would not be able to carry arms but could "practise with sticks" until they reached the legal minimum age of 17½. Academic requirements would be lowered for the fast-reaction force, which contributes to NATO operations. Military command is also considering doubling the percentage of women soldiers to 12 per cent in a decade.

"The idea is to set up a college which would give the youngsters an education and a taste of the army, after which they could sign up fully," a spokesman for the AFMP soldiers' union said. "It would be done in partnership with the corporate sector, so recruits could get a civilian job after a couple of years."

The recruitment problem has been exacerbated by the military's shoddy image and low morale. Since Dutch troops were blamed for the fall of Srebrenica, Bosnia, in 1995, the military has been rocked by scandals involving gross misconduct.

This year soldiers have been found guilty of drug smuggling, with one non-commissioned officer running an Ecstasy distribution ring from a base in Germany. A report in September revealed that Dutch officers taking part in a UN peacekeeping operation in Angola had sex with minors.

## Rift between islands widens as Nevis seeks independence

FROM DAVID ADAMS  
IN CHARLESTOWN,  
ST KITTS AND NEVIS

EVER since these two islands were joined by their British colonial masters more than 100 years ago, forming the smallest nation in this hemisphere, St Kitts and Nevis have never seen eye to eye.

Now Nevis is hoping to break away, after the island's five-member assembly voted last month to hold a referendum on independence.

Measuring only 36 square miles and with a population of barely 10,000, an independent Nevis would rank among the smallest countries in the world, second only to Vatican City and the phosphate-rich Pacific island of Nauru. "We might end up being the smallest country on earth, but at least the people will be free," said Kenneth Williams, editor and publisher of the local weekly newspaper, the *St. Kitts-Nevis Observer*. The referendum could be held as early as April.

While St Kitts has always

attempted to smuggle diamonds and marijuana. The army command was accused of turning a blind eye and did not report the misconduct.

However, attempts to tighten discipline in a military free to wear pony tails and earings have largely misfired.

Plans to shorten hairstyles and smarten dress codes were ditched recently after the first victim of the new regime raised a wave of protest.

A new code of conduct for the army has also been lambasted as infantile. The eight-point charter, published in October, consists of a ban on drugs and the inordinate consumption of alcohol. It orders soldiers to respect all cultures and human rights, refrain from intimidation and "rumour-mongering and tit-tat-tat", and to help people in need whenever they can.

An army spokesman said the code, which would have to come into effect before the end of next year, was vital to achieve a fully professional military force by 2000.

The Dutch Army is increasingly working within international crisis-management operations and humanitarian aid exercises. The whole world is watching. Dutch soldiers have to look professional and act professionally," he said.

To introduce the code, the army issued all its 35,000 personnel with a sheet of coloured stickers on which were printed the code text. The idea was that soldiers would exchange stickers to get a full set. The union said the code was "an insult to a soldier's intelligence".

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Ira Einhorn, right, in a Bordeaux court for his extradition appeal, talks to his lawyer, Dominique Deltil.

## French court frees fugitive killer in rebuff to America

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

IRA EINHORN, the former hippy guru and convicted murderer who has evaded American justice for two decades, was set free yesterday after an appeal court in Bordeaux refused to extradite him to America to serve a life sentence.

Einhorn, 57, faces a 1993 conviction in absentia for the murder of his girlfriend in 1977, but his lawyers successfully argued that he would be denied a retrial, as required under French law, if he were sent back.

After delaying a ruling for three months, the Bordeaux court ordered Einhorn's immediate release, in a rebuff to the American authorities who have hunted the fugitive since 1981 when he jumped bail and vanished. The chief prosecutor of Bordeaux has appealed against the verdict.

The burly, bearded Einhorn, who maintains his innocence, said "thank you" when the court delivered its long-awaited ruling. Immediately after the court hearing, Einhorn was summoned before another judge on charges

of using a false passport illegally living in France under an alias.

The convicted killer could eventually be expelled from France for violating immigration rules, but in the meantime the only restriction on his movement is a legal order to remain in the Charente region of southwest France pending the inquiry into his residency status.

Einhorn's triumphant lawyers last night predicted that the convicted man would never be forced to return to America. "The United States has realised today, to its distress, that it still has lessons to learn from old Europe in the area of human rights," said Dominique Deltil. Einhorn's lawyer.

Einhorn was convicted of murdering his hippy girlfriend, Holly Maddux, whose body was found in his Philadelphia flat 18 months after the killing.

Having skipped bail, Einhorn fled to Europe and lived quietly, using various assumed names, in Britain, Scandinavia and Switzerland.

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## Time to put on a performance

There is a glorious moment in Pamela Brown's children's novel, *The Swish of the Curtain*, when the band of junior thespians hit a snag in their attempt to put on a play. The leading lady has to make an instant impact. She is magical, alluring, entrancing and so on, and she needs to dress the part. But there is only about half a crown in the kitty. Not enough to buy a single yard of silk or satin. What are they to do? The answer turns out to be... lining material. It's flimsy, it's dirt cheap and in natural light it looks thoroughly nasty. By night, however, under stage lighting, it is a different story. It acquires the glimmering pale-blue lustre of a South Sea pearl. The dress — and the children's show — are a howling success.

There is a useful lesson here for anyone currently contemplating the prospect of a month of heavy partying, and it is one that contradicts all the normal rules of clothes-buying. Proper shoppers when considering a purchase ask themselves just two questions: do I really like it, and is it of supreval quality — beautiful material, lovingly made, carefully finished? If the answer to both questions is yes, then the sale is made. It may be eccentric, it may be last season's look. None of this matters. If the workmanship is good its time will come.

In 1986 I bought, for a tenner, a pair of hand-stitched, real crocodile court shoes from Bruno Magli. They were old Seventies stock, with square toes and chunky six-inch heels, and they were so wildly out of fashion that they looked quite shocking. Everyone in the office thought me quite mad to waste ten pounds in this reck-

If, on the other hand, you are thinking of spending from now until Epiphany racking from drinks to dinner to nightclubs to brunch, then you should tell yourself that what you are doing is not getting dressed in the ordinary sense, but putting on a performance. And so what you need are half a dozen little outfits that will make a brief but dazzling impact. And the place to look for these outfits is the high street, where they seem to turn around designer looks with greater speed, skill and economy. That crêpe column — is it Gucci, or Wallis? The beaded chiffon — Warehouse, or Ferretti? In a dim light, with the champagne sparkling, believe me, no one will be able to tell — unless you decide to let them get close enough to examine the label.

## KENYA

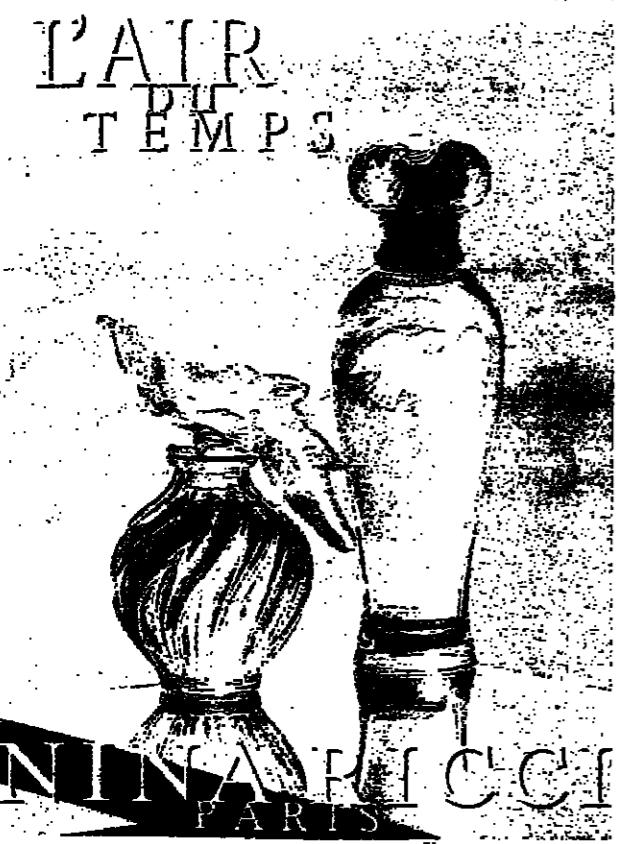
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## 'Tis the season to be jolly — and stunning

### Nancy Bridgewater (left):

Black lace dress with pink embroidery, £567 by Elspeth Gibson from a selection at Tokio, 309 Brompton Road SW3. 0171-823 7310. Black and pink feather headpiece, £150 by Del Rees at Tokio. Black satin beaded ankle strap stilettos, £255 by Patrick Cox, 8 Symons Street SW3. 0171-733 6504. Black silk velvet embossed scarf with beading, £150 from a selection at Snap Dragon, 247 Fulham Road SW3. 0171-376 8889

### Millie Saunders (right):

Red slip with roses, £150 from a selection by Belle Aura at Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street W1. 0171-629 0566. Red snakeskin stiletto court shoe, £235 by Gina, 189 Sloane Street SW1. 0171 235 2932. Black sheer tights, £3.50 by Ansto

### Marika Chkheidze (below):

Silver sequin dress with side slits, £255 by Etam from stores nationwide. 0171-437 5655. Crystal tiara, £165 by Erickson Beamon. Black velvet stilettos, £230 by Gucci, 33 Old Bond Street W1

## Ready to party

Photographer: KARL GRANT Stylist: Nicola Goldie  
Hair: Flavian Abbas at Michaeljohn Management using Sebastian Products  
Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management

Take three girls, different budgets, and lots of party invitations. What dresses would they choose? Grace Bradberry finds out

A really great party dress can transform the month of December. Even if your social firmament doesn't sparkle very much, there is always one party where dressing up is *de riguer*. Fashion pundits may recommend tuxedos, metallic trousers, clever combinations of camisoles and skirts — but there is nothing like the joy of throwing on one really stunning dress. As Dorothy Parker said: "Where's the man could ease the heart like a satin gown?" We asked three

consummate party girls — none of them models — to go out shopping, each with a particular budget in mind, and show off their spoils in the studio. Here they reveal their secrets.

Under £60: Nancy Bridgewater, 26, is a designer who is breaking into television. She chose an Elspeth Gibson embroidered dress. She spends the least of anyone on clothes — but fantasises about having a designer budget. "I've never really bought something spe-

cifically to go out in. Then I found this amazing bead dress by Elspeth Gibson, which I would definitely wear if I could afford it. It's the kind of thing that would make a real impact."

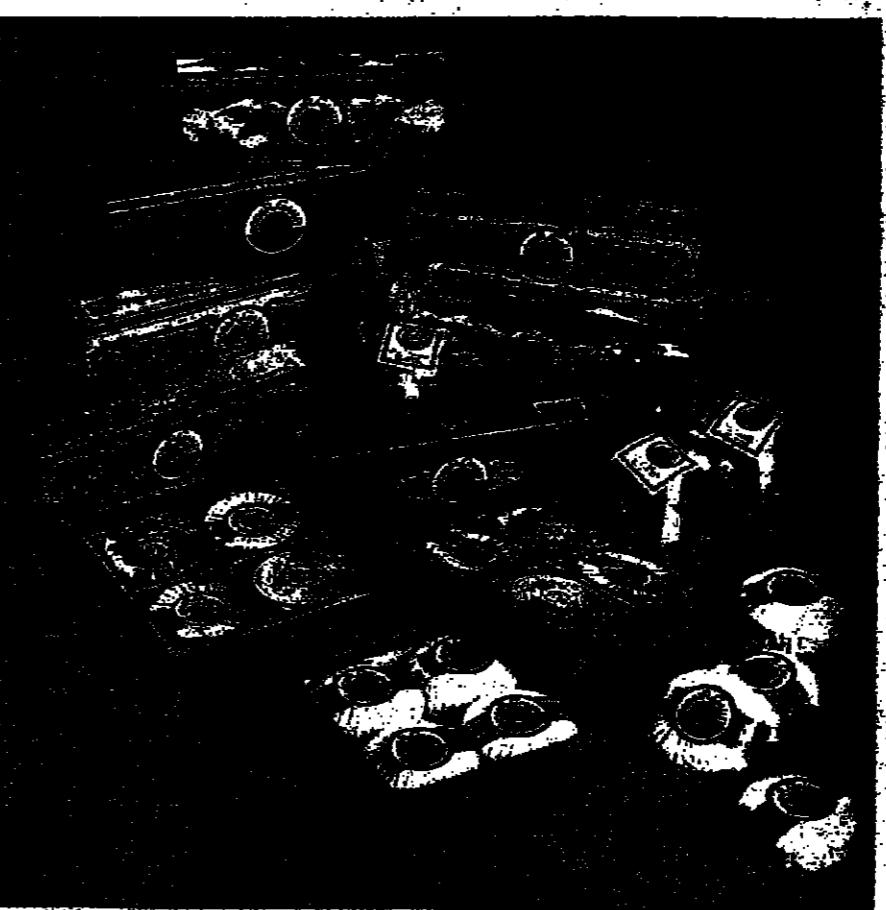
Under £150: Millie Saunders, 24, PA to Chris Bailey, director of Jigsaw menswear, wears a red slip dress by Belle Aura. The woman behind Belle Aura is Deborah Anderson, a singer who began making handbags to pay the rent. She takes antique slips, dyes them using Dylon and adds beautiful silk flowers and velvets, making each dress a one-off. Nicole Kidman recently bought five in one go. Winona Ryder is another client.

"I go to a lot of parties, some of them connected with work, and I tend to wear different things. I'd never heard of Belle Aura before, but I think this dress is a real find."

Under £50: Marika Chkheidze, 18, is reading history at King's College London. She lived in Moscow until she was 10, when her family moved to London. Her family takes clothes very seriously.

"I'm going to two university balls before Christmas and a big new year do. I would definitely wear this Etam dress, and it's so cheap."

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JAHAN ALI



# Holistic medicine for the excluded

**John Lloyd** says Mandelson's unit heralds a revolution in government

One "challenge above all others" will be met next week: the "most important innovation" Labour has made in government will be unveiled. That challenge must be overcome, that innovation must be seen to work, before Labour can deserve another "historic victory". Could the stakes be higher?

The speech from which those quotations were taken was made in the dog days of August by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio. The challenge he raised was that of social exclusion. This is what the Government calls the poor or the underclass, preferring the longer phrase because it believes it better describes a condition that is less a product of lack of money or socio-economic position than of exclusion from the networks which provide jobs, support, and sociability.

It was seen — naturally — as a gambit to attract party support for the seat he then coveted on Labour's National Executive Committee; what, after all, has Mr Mandelson to do with the socially excluded, or they with Mr Mandelson? It was meant to serve ambition: what senior politician's speech is not? But the words remain on record — enshrined, indeed, in a Fabian pamphlet — long after the gambit failed. A person of the stature of the Minister without Portfolio has pledged that success in overcoming social exclusion is a condition of winning the next election.

He also said that the medium through which this modern scourge is to be tackled — a Social Exclusion Unit, working within the Cabinet Office directly to the Prime Minister — would be up and running by September. It did not happen; but the unit has been coming together for the past month, and will be formally announced early next week. The delay was due to the time needed to assemble the dozen high-flying civil servants and voluntary sector executives who are its staff. But if the time taken was due to bureaucratic hurdles, the aim of the unit is to slash bureaucracy — even to revolutionise government. Mr Mandelson was right: this will be — if it works — the most important innovation Labour introduces into government.

The task itself is not so much vast as system-challenging. What we know of the socially excluded — and they are much studied — points to families and individuals for whom the very workings of the modern world militate against their inclusion. Unable or unwilling to educate themselves, they do not know how to read the increasingly intricate instructions to contemporary life. Unlike their predecessors, the poor, they have narcotics — the legal kinds which come via the screen in the corner of the room, the illegal kind which are bought in the alleys. These keep them quiet, but further deepens their exclusion.

To reach and "include" these people while simultaneously furthering and celebrating the forces which exclude them will take some doing. But the unit's brief is only part of its broader purpose. It is explicitly meant to be a prototype for a re-invention of government. Those who are designing the unit believe that it will succeed

in its first aim of inclusion only if it succeeds in its secondary aim of deconstructing, then reconstructing, Whitehall.

What is being proposed is nothing less than an end to the departmentalism which has its roots in the 19th century, and which has survived fundamentally unchanged to this day. It has for some time been a major strand of new Labour thinking that this no longer serves its purposes; that its radicalism and ambitions cannot be cramped within a Victorian corset, and that it must be ripped open.

Ripped open, to be replaced with something which has been given a name: "holistic government". The name is that of a pamphlet published by Demos, the most influential new Labour think-tank, whose founder Geoff Mulgan has a crucial role at the Downing Street policy unit. Demos defines as holistic an administration which deals with issues in the round rather than through dozens of separate agencies and departments.

The idea is that the families and individuals who constitute the excluded are "consumers" of subsidies, services, and advice. The case workers who now guard the portals of the agencies set up to minister to the excluded would be liberated to shape the packages they need to gain inclusion again.

By purchasing services across departments, such packages should be more or less individualised solutions to individual problems. Instead of trying to "cure" social exclusion, the State should concentrate on preventing it.

The fragmented and feudal nature of government departments — which enforces turf wars, ownership of clients and ministerial competitiveness — is hostile to this project. The Social Exclusion Unit is designed to destroy this feudal culture. Its civil servants are taken from a variety of departments. Within each department, a minister below Cabinet rank and a senior civil servant are assigned to the unit. The permanent secretaries' group on social exclusion, set up on an ad hoc basis under the previous Government, continues to meet. At the apex of this structure sits the Prime Minister, to whom the unit reports. Tony Blair said of it last week that it was "in many ways the defining difference between ourselves and the previous administration".

If the unit works, it works twice. It includes the excluded, and excludes the archaic. It erects a working model, at the very heart of government, of a new way of running the country. It is new Labour doing what it was born for. It will, if successful, stand as the answer to Roy Hattersley, who has kept up a withering fire on what he sees as the Government's empty pretensions to deal with poverty.

And it will, if successful, convince those of us who bought and still buy new Labour's economic claims that we were right. Its failure would be disillusioning indeed — for the electorate, too. It is in society's depths where new Labour will find its just deserts, or be denied them.

**John Lloyd** is associate editor of the New Statesman.



## The price of Paddy's pact

**Liberal Democrats are letting Labour off the hook — and betraying their principles**

**O**n Monday this week the 46 Liberal Democrats elected in May were offered what was perhaps their best opportunity so far to embarrass the Government. And this would have been no mere opportunism. They had the chance to present an honest case consistent with their principles and passions.

The occasion was a debate on welfare. The Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, was twisting on the rack of an Opposition motion criticising her policies towards single parents, pensioners and the disabled.

Both the Conservative and Labour parties were on sticky ground. Ms Harman was, after all, implementing Tory policies running counter to the whole spirit of new Labour's covenant with the weakest society. Ms Harman's argument — "single mothers want work not benefit" — rang as false as Tory complaints on single mothers' behalf.

Harman faced mutiny from her own backbenchers. A third of Labour's parliamentary infantry had written protesting to the Chancellor. Journalists were alert. The whips had made strenuous efforts to scare dissenters off and drag into the chamber all the bootlickers they could find. The Labour benches were half-empty, and uneasy.

What an opportunity for Paddy Ashdown! As Harriet Harman rose at 3.38 with the front bench beside her tight-lipped, her backbenchers gagged and the official Opposition hobbled, there was only one party with the moral right and the weight of numbers to make a noise. Liberal Democrats are, by habit, the best attenders in the chamber. Now, with head and heart and in full throat, they could have created quite a fuss.

Three turned up. There was David Rendel, the Lib-Dem social security spokesman, plus two backbenchers: less than 7 percent of their party. The Tories numbered a little above 20; about 15 percent, and a similar proportion to the Parliamentary Labour Party's backbench showing. Later, other Lib Dems wandered in, at around the time the press were wandering out, the critical opening speeches — the time when the Government was embarrassing — having passed. When it came to the division, the party, headed by Paddy Ashdown, joined the Government in voting down the Opposition motion.

*Call me a parliamentary anarchist, but I think that was significant. It does not really matter whether the big patch of empty green leather and the white space in the Hansard list of Ayes, where Liberal Democrats*

ought to have been, arose by mistake, misjudgment or design. You do not need to postulate conspiracy to conclude that our third party feels hesitant on the question of whether its role is to make serious trouble for this Government. However things may look outside Westminster and on the pollsters' charts, in the Commons chamber the Labour Party is an open goal and the Tories are injured players. This is the Lib Dems' big chance to score, and they haven't even got their boots on.

Nor do we speak only of gamesmanship. The Liberal Democrats'

of new Labour's considerable cranium are under-developed or shrunk: that part marked "liberty" and that part marked "compassion".

Mo Mowlam denies, and an alleged witness to the incident stoutly insists, that, while Leader of the Opposition, Tony Blair remarked of homelessness that there were "no votes in it". Apocryphal or true, the story struck, and still strikes, a chord. Mr Straw's attack on beggars and squeegee merchants troubled in the same way. Recent claims that Humphrey the Downing Street cat had been cast out or poisoned were only jokes, but crikey did they strike a chord!

Mr Blair's aides were forced to arrange a photo opportunity at a secret location, to prove Humphrey was alive, and to promise that Mr and Mrs Blair planned to get another cat.

Mrs Blair even issued a statement.

A certain lack of humanity is a serious weakness in the new Government's image. And the other big question concerns the party's attachment to liberty. In new Labour's collective imagination, the aims of the State may have altered, but the big stick is still firmly in its hands. "Families cannot flourish unless government plays its distinctive role", said the 1997 Labour manifesto.

Particular policies — on curfews, on a drugs "bar", homework, noisy neighbours, warfare, "capping" local authorities, tagging offenders, zero tolerance, gay servicemen, dissident Euro-MPs, legal aid cuts, press freedom, "fast-track punishment for young offenders", country sports — may each be defended on their particular merits but an overall impression arises that when Labour ministers sit around the Cabinet table to decide policy on any matter, the voice crying "individual liberty" is not strong. The image of the bully — Blair's mouthpiece, Alastair Campbell — seems to some to embody it — hovers above this Government.

You can hardly scan the examples above without noting that in almost every case the official Opposition is remarkably ill-placed to criticise. The flame of individual liberty does still burn in the Conservative Party, but in recent years has seemed to flicker.

*Caesar haircuts. Credit for this insight belongs to the winning Lauren Booth, Cherie's sister and new friend of Alan Clark. Sharne she spoils it by calling Blair's election the Versace revolution.*

• **MINISTER** in cross-dressing shocker. Or so my colleagues on the cheap prints might fashion my story. Charles McCreevy, Ireland's Finance Minister, was preening himself in his office for Wednesday's Budget. He felt for the suit he had recently purchased from what passes for a decent tailor in Dublin. But when he lifted the bag, rather than finding his charcoal

grey three-piece number, he discovered a long slit skirt and a white lace body. It belonged, I am assured, to his wife, who rushed round with a quicker ensemble.

### Inside job

IT WOULD bring a smile to Howard Hunt, Watergate burglar. The Foreign Office is advertising for a British locksmith. He will spend much time "overseas carrying out repairs and maintenance on a wide range of security equipment and locks". The description also states that "as a member of a small specialist team the successful candidate will be expected to work unsupervised, and produce written reports". Candidates should "show a close affiliation with the UK". No need for a clean criminal record.

• **FIRST** the management crisis, then the protocol crisis: the Royal Opera House had the Prince of Wales round yesterday to look over the work there. Mary Allen, chief executive, was to welcome him. But after the damning report calling for Allen to go, the Prince was met by a flunkey in a hard hat. "It has been rather fluid all week," explains an insider.

**Blair's militant tendency**  
Beware Trotskyists  
of the Labour Right,  
warns Ken Jackson

**I**t is sad that new Labour is in trouble over party funding. It needn't be. But it was inevitable, given the way in which Labour fundraisers have railed their collection boxes under the noses of millions. For business does not invest in Labour out of altruism. Unlike trade unions, business expects a return. It is naive to believe the opposite.

That is not to say Labour should not work in partnership with business. My union, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU), fought hard to turn Labour's clench fist into a welcoming handshake. Partnership is the AEEU's philosophical beacon. I am glad that it is finally Labour's.

But let's not confuse partnership with fraternity. Business does not have the shared history and values enjoyed by both trade unions and the Labour Party. Business donates money to whichever party looks like winning. That is why those same businesses that now fund Labour once kept the Conservatives afloat.

Trade unions fund Labour because we know Labour is better for Britain. Unlike other donors, we do not have a list of demands, but seek to persuade Labour that our policy proposals are right for Britain. Unlike others, we do not have to bribe. So it is disappointing when trade unions are denounced.

Since 1979, unions have invested more than £20 million in Labour. My union alone has freely invested £20 million, with 700,000 members now paying the political levy. And while some business donors might not relish their help being revealed, unions are proud to do so. After all, our members vote for a political fund. We have no reason to be embarrassed by disclosure.

To look at Labour over the years, our donations might be seen as a bad investment. I would not agree. Without our money, new Labour would not be in office today. That is why we fought to lay new Labour's foundations, including one-member-one-vote and the expulsion of Militant.

But the debate over who funds the Labour Party is but one part of a wider project. A small but influential minority inside the Labour Party wants to take an axe to the party's roots. They seek a party without traditions and without foundation. Trade unions, local councillors, working people and, ultimately, party members themselves — all are superfluous to requirements. For these right-wing Trotskyists, new Labour is not about the Labour Party. It is about creating a new SDP.

**A**nd the process has begun. In recent weeks, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, took another swipe at trade unions, forgetting conveniently that he began his career at the TUC and was backed for his constituency by the GMB. Professionals have increasingly replaced ordinary working people as parliamentary candidates. Even the No 10 policy unit harbours those who once fought Labour, instead of fighting for reform from within. I am all for pluralism, but pluralism must not exclude those from ordinary backgrounds.

I want new Labour to succeed, as all sensible trade unionists do. It is not an aberration. The 1980s were the mistake in Labour's history. I support modernisation, but ordinary working people must be involved in the process. For without the broad base of union support, new Labour will become as unrepresentative now as it was in the past. We have thrown off the shackles of one minority. I do not want to have to fight another.

The idea that Labour could survive without trade union support, relying instead on state funding alone, is again, rather naive. Union support is not simply financial. During the election, thousands of ordinary union members fought on the ground to return Labour candidates to Parliament. According to MORI, trade unionists have a 3 per cent higher turnout than the rest of the electorate. But it would be difficult to persuade my members to vote Labour if they had been kicked in the teeth by a minority who excluded their voice.

Ironically, the union link with Labour is not a burning political issue. During the general election, it did not appear on the doorsteps. It was not raised at the Labour Party conference. Support for the link is strong. At a recent event, I debated the link with a former researcher to Mr Mandelson. The audience of young moderate Labour Party activists did not agree that it is time to wave the brothers goodbye. Nor are unions across the world divorced from centre-left political parties. From the United States to Australia, trade unions both support and fund their political partners.

New Labour's anti-trade unionists, who share a complete lack of trade union experience, are misguided, self-absorbed and unrepresentative. If they do not like or understand the Labour Party, they should leave. They will not be missed. The Labour Party is not the SDP, and never will be. That offshoot failed, and new Labour would fail if it followed the same path. But I am sure the good sense of the leadership and ordinary party members will not let it happen.

**The author** is general secretary of the AEEU.

## Boot boys

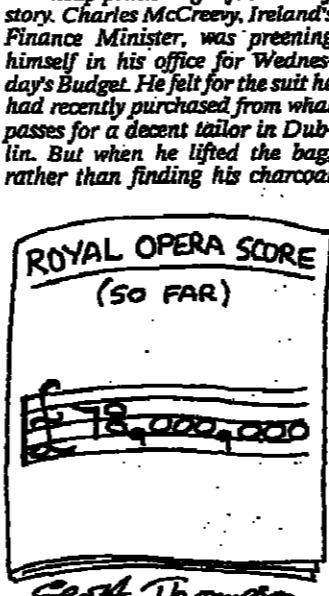
FOOTBALLERS at the House of Commons have signed a new coach: Mr Vincent Jones, the hard man of the FA Carling Premiership whose CV reads like a charge sheet. The Wimbledon midfielder has been offered the job of training Parliament FC — star player, one Tony Banks — and has graciously accepted. Vinnie, as he is known affectionately to aficionados of the once beautiful game, was approached by the Tory MP Nigel Evans to help the Commons team. "I told him the boys needed to harden up — we are a bit shy in the tackle," says Evans, a wily winger (he plays on the left). "We have a grudge match against the Sergeant-at-Arms next week. It got a bit heated last time and I thought he [Vinnie] would be the best man to prepare us." Mr Jones has had what the cheap print might term a "colourful career". Since he was pictured gripping Paul Gascoigne's more thinking parts, he has developed a full-blooded approach to the game. He has been sent off 12 times, was rebuked by the FA for making obscene gestures to fans, threw a bread roll at Gary Lineker and bit a sports reporter on the nose. Yesterday the reporter said he was suing the player for libel damages over comments made in the bloody aftermath.

Parliament FC is captained by the Labour MP Gerry Sutcliffe,



AMID all the coverage of the Covent Garden calamity, I was taken by the perceptive analysis of The Sun newspaper. In particular, by the byline of Brendan Murphy, billed as "the journal's opera correspondent". "I thought the editor meant Oprah Winfrey," protested Mr Murphy before making an astonishing disclosure. "I have been to the Royal Opera House on occasion. My favourite is La Bohème." Sack him.

**Beefy stuff**  
TONY BLAIR has a penchant for Marmite sandwiches. This, I concede, is of limited global import except it proves the PM does have a feel for a Britain pre-polenta and



Geoff Thompson



IN a posthumous snub worthy of Hollywood, Bette Davis (above) on her own birthday in her home town. The Ava Gardner Museum in North Carolina had planned to show *The Great Sinner*, to mark the 75th anniversary of the actress's birth. But when the film arrived, it was a Bette Davis flick. *The Gardner* movie, of which there is only one copy, ended up in Hungary. The museum had to make do with Gardner's *The Hustlers*.

JASPER GERARD



## FARMED OUT

A Government deaf to farmers' pain, blind to lawbreaking

When British lorry drivers were trapped by striking French hauliers earlier this year, Tony Blair flatly and rightly condemned the failure of the French Government and police to clear the country's roads for lawful trade and demanded full compensation. The Irish Government must thus have expected decisive British action from the moment, early last Monday morning, that Welsh farmers tipped 40 tonnes of Irish hamburger into the sea off Holyhead. The principle that grievances, however real, cannot justify criminal acts is just as valid in this case.

No such firmness has been displayed. Downing Street left it to the Welsh Office to "liaise" with the angry farmers; and the North Wales Police, inexplicably, allowed protesters onto the Holyhead dockside and stood by while they "inspected" and turned back more Irish loads. No wonder that the illegality has spread to Stranraer — where loads from Ulster were among those blocked — to Liverpool and now to Dover. Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, should not have waited until last night to tell farmers that they are not above the law; right from the start, farmers ought to have been told to expect arrest and stiff fines if they did anything that went beyond peaceful, unobstructive, demonstrations. Their grievances can be the subject of negotiation; their illegal conduct cannot be. If the explanation is that the Government is nervous that arrests would court public anger, given the fresh blow that its imminent ban on sales of beef on the bone has inflicted on a reeling industry, that is no excuse.

The farmers do have a point. It is not only beef producers who are having a dreadful winter. Every agricultural sector has been hit by the rise in sterling and consequent fall in the value of the "green pound", the notional unit pegged to other EU currencies in which European Union common agricultural policy subsidies are calculated. This has depressed farm incomes by between 25 and

40 per cent this year. After several highly profitable years, wealthy agro-industrialists can absorb the pain, but small-farmers and other marginal producers, whose land barely provides a secure living at the best of times, are in genuinely grave trouble. It is no consolation to them that the roots of their predicament lie in the contorted, market-rigging machinery of the CAP. Many could go bankrupt long before the European Commission's proposals to switch from producer subsidies to direct income support — a badly needed reform which would expose rich farmers to market disciplines while freeing money for coherent rural strategies — have a chance of being agreed.

The Government should flatly refuse even to talk to them until these blockades end; but it should then listen more sympathetically than it seems disposed to do to the case for selective use of compensation. The Government has refused to draw down £980 million available to it from the EU contingency fund designed to cushion the impact of currency fluctuations. It argues that to do so would breach its spending limits, because the way that Britain's EU budget rebate is calculated means that only 29 per cent of this is "free" cash and the rest would ultimately be paid by British taxpayers. But set against the £5 billion cost of handling the BSE crisis, this is small change. Beef farmers are hit from every angle; fatstock prices are on the floor. They face levies to pay for the £58 million cost of new hygiene standards and the cattle data base, and the seasonal boom in the beef market will inevitably be dented by the new ban. However slight the risk to health, the Government had no choice but to impose it; but it does have a choice about playing Scrooge with the EU fund. So long as this country has to live with a rotten EU common agricultural policy, it is unfair to British farmers to withhold the common palliative. To be deaf to distress but weak on crime is hardly enlightened leadership.

## MORE FREE SCHOOLS

Watch the zones for education action

If there were any doubt that the Government was prepared to take on the educational establishment, the publication of yesterday's School Standards Bill should help to dispel it. There is much evidence of fresh thinking: the experiments of today could become the universal practice of tomorrow. And the extra accountability that the Secretary of State will impose on local education authorities (LEAs) and teacher training institutions — still the last bastion of producer interests — is excellent news for those worried about educational standards.

The Bill strengthens the powers of Ofsted, the inspection agency, against teacher training colleges. This should help to ensure that new teachers enter schools with a more rigorous approach and higher expectations of their pupils. It also allows the Education Secretary to crack down on bad LEAs, not just by taking them over, as he has done in Hackney, but also by insisting on contracting out — to the private sector or to another LEA — any service that is under par.

The logical extension of this is to give schools 100 per cent of their budgets, not 80 per cent as of now. They could then choose to buy their advice, meals, transport or any other service from the best provider available. If that happened to be the LEA, so be it. But forcing the local authorities to compete in an open market is the best way of levering up the quality of their services.

The only worrying aspect of this part of the Bill is the power it will give to LEAs to intervene in schools. This will be governed by a code of practice, which will allow such intervention only when a school gives cause for concern. Ministers must be strict with their drafting, for LEAs are desperate to have any chance to interfere. In some cases, they may be helpful — in others not.

Ministers have listened during the period of consultation. They have acceded to the reasonable demands of Church schools to retain their special identity. They have also met parents' wishes for greater representation on both governing bodies and LEA education committees. This flexibility is to be entirely welcomed.

Most interesting, however, are the plans for education action zones. Twenty-five of these will be set up in areas of low educational performance, urban and rural. The idea is that they will throw regulations to the winds. Parents, local businesses and voluntary organisations will be able to form groups of schools that can use innovative approaches to suit their areas.

So, for instance, they can tear up the national curriculum to concentrate on the basics at primary level and on more work-related subjects for disaffected teenagers in secondary schools. They can set their own pay and conditions for teachers in order to attract better staff and perhaps reward them for working during the summer or on Saturday mornings or after school. They will be able to hire extra teachers to cover specialist subjects in the later years of primary school — which is common practice in private schools but not the state sector.

The success or otherwise of these zones will have ramifications well beyond their borders. Instead of imposing change nationally, the Government is allowing local experiments in schooling. Unlike in America, where states can compete with each other to be innovative, this country has had to experience monolithic reform. Now there is a chance for 25 different approaches to be tried, and the best to be copied elsewhere.

Where the education action zones lead, the rest of the country may follow.

## TOAST TO THE NORTH

An appropriate moment to remember common bonds

The Norwegian Ambassador last night lit up the magnificent Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, in a ceremony that since the Second World War has become one of the most celebrated and popular symbols of friendship between two countries. Every year, since its liberation from the Nazis, Norway has sent a vast Norwegian spruce to Britain as a token of thanks for British support during the years of occupation.

Although it has only four million people, Norway has long played a prominent role in British history and culture. Its kings and warriors visited our coasts; from the epic of Sir Patrick Spens to the Battle of Narvik. Britons have sailed to Nordic waters to wage battle or forge dynastic unions; and Ibsen, Munch and Grieg, three outstanding examples of Norwegian creative talent, still find acclaim in Britain. Norwegians come here in large numbers, to shop, to study and to enjoy our big cities. It sometimes seems as though half the Norwegian Cabinet has graduated from Newcastle University; and many a store in the North East looks forward to the weekend specials from Oslo.

Norwegians, however, are not the only big spenders from the north. Thousands of Icelanders are breaking all records in sprees that overshadow even the extravagance of wealthy visitors from Japan and the Middle East. Iceland's 250,000 hardy souls can now claim to spend more per head than any other

visitor to Britain. More than 50,000, twice the previous record, arrived last year to snap up bargains, enjoy our theatres and dine in our restaurants, each spending on average £99 per day — three times that spent by visitors from elsewhere.

They are doubly welcome — first because of their open-handed ways, and secondly because they bring with them some of the mystery of their faraway land of fire and ice. Britain and Iceland fought a war over cod. Since then, Iceland has grown immensely rich on the fruits of its cold seas. Iceland's standard of living, literacy rate and book production are among the highest in the world; its versatile people think nothing of holding three jobs at once. Few countries, with such bleak landscape and foul weather, can boast such good design, fine food, ancient literature and wild discos.

Other Nordic peoples flatter Britain by visiting us in winter. The festival of Finnish culture at London's Barbican opened recently in the presence of the Queen and President Ahtisaari, one of the largest and most exuberant displays of Finnish creative arts ever held outside Finland. That Finland chose to celebrate its 80th anniversary of independence in Britain is a mark of genuine friendship. Londoners can enjoy the exhibition, as well as the lights in Trafalgar Square. To Helsinki and Oslo, there is a warm message in return: thank you.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Anger over latest ban on beef

From Dr Mark Tremelling

Sir, I was surprised today to hear that the Government, in the interests of my own health and safety, have decided to ban me from eating my beef "off the bone" (reports and leading article, December 4). This, I believe, is due to the calculation that three out of more than two million cattle to be slaughtered next year for human consumption might have bones infected with the prion disease, BSE.

This risk is in itself remarkably small, certainly far smaller than the risk of being killed by some of the other potential hazards the Government has yet to outlaw in the interest of the nation's longevity, such as smoking, drinking alcohol or crossing the road.

Furthermore, it seems to assume that I will eat safer meat cut from the bone by some faceless slaughterhouse attendant than I would be had I performed the seemingly simple procedure myself. Whether or not one would have to actually devour the bones themselves or simply come into close contact with them has yet to be made clear.

Perhaps, in the light of this new information on bones as a reservoir for BSE, the ban should also be extended to encompass food products prepared for household pets, in an effort to prevent an outbreak of mad dogs, as well as Englishmen.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK TREMELLING,  
16 Archery Steps,  
St George's Fields, W2  
December 4

From Mr Roland Castro

Sir, The latest beef scare seems to indicate that we should be looking more closely at organic farming methods. Whilst this may be desirable in the long term, urgent measures need to be taken now. We should consider the following points:

1. Our methods of feeding cattle have come under suspicion. The Government and the public share the responsibility for pursuing cheap food, regardless of the cost to our health and the economy.
2. There seems to be a clear implication that many other countries are more successful in their raising methods. If this is so, then we should be informed of all the facts.
3. Modern methods of food production bring many other foods under suspicion. There is a lack of balance in harping so heavily on beef.

In the meantime, the Government could be more careful and constructive in its announcements: there is too much evidence of haste and panic. But if these events bring us closer to more sane and safe methods of food production, then we shall all benefit.

Yours faithfully,  
ROLAND CASTRO,  
3 Chester Close,  
Chester Street, SW1.  
December 4

From Mr Philip Merricks

Sir, I am struck by the incongruity of tobacco, which is known to kill many thousands, being freely on sale, whilst beef on the bone, which might cause the additional death of one twentieth of one person next year, is banned. All to a background of TV and tabloid scare stories.

The Government has a clear and agreed duty to protect consumers. Which part of our staple diet should have its contents controlled — beef, cigarettes or the media?

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP MERRICKS,  
The Manor,  
Icklesham, Rye, East Sussex.  
December 4

From Mr David Hincks

Sir, From the figures given in your front-page report today, I calculate that one beef animal in 306,666 may have BSE, and in the time that British herds have had this problem, one person in 3,150,000 has died from the new variant of CJD.

This compares to one driver in 7,714 being involved in a road traffic accident on our diseased roads. I have only one thing to say: "Please, pass the horseradish sauce."

Yours faithfully,  
D. HINCKS,  
Normans Cross,  
Filton, Chard, Somerset.  
December 4

From Mrs Susan Plummer

Sir, Whatever happened to freedom of choice? My family and I choose to eat roast rib of beef on a Sunday. It is not forced on us; it is our choice, so why not leave it to individuals to decide on their preferred cut of meat? Why should the Government tell me what I can eat?

Yours faithfully,  
S. J. PLUMMER,  
Lambourn Farm,  
Plumpton, Sussex.  
December 4

From Mr Keith St. Berrett

Sir, If only the British beef industry had had the foresight to sponsor Formula One.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH ST. BERRETT,  
9 Reynolds Mews,  
Wilmslow, Cheshire.  
December 4

### Hitting the right Royal Opera target

From Mr B. V. Strickland

Sir, A climate of crisis can be helpful to the process of introducing changes, and Mr Kaufman's report on the Royal Opera House will have been useful if it leads to calm and significant appointments. However, like you in today's leading article, I find his attacks on the recently appointed chief executive misplaced.

Surely, his real targets should have been previous ministers, Sir Angus Stirling, the previous chairman, and Sir Jeremy Isaacs, the previous chief executive, who presided over the disastrous decision-making process and presumably received knighthoods for doing so.

Knighthoods have been taken away for proven wrongdoing, so why not for incompetence?

Yours faithfully,  
BEN STRICKLAND,  
23 Juer Street, SW1.  
December 4

From Mrs Edwina Currie

Sir, Last night I attended a performance of Verdi's comic opera *Falstaff* by English National Opera. The Coliseum was packed, the audience enthusiastic, the music superb. The laudatory comments of your opera critic (Arts, November 17) amongst others were fully justified. Overall this was an evening of which any capital city could be proud.

Yours sincerely,  
EDWINA CURRIE,  
The Tower House, Finedon, Derby.  
December 4

From Mrs Elizabeth Bangs Jones

Sir, I was not at all surprised to read about the relative academic success of the pupils fromMontserrat (leading article, December 4).

While we were teaching at a university in northern Cyprus, our oldest son went to the local Turkish infant school. It had no resources at all. Our son could speak only the most basic Turkish.

The desks were in serried ranks, the classrooms gloomy, the only posters on the wall of Ataturk and a 1950s family scene. Our son had to learn a Turkish poem by heart about twice a week and read a highly graded reading scheme (which had been in use for at least 30 years), though he did not understand most of it. He spent a lot of time copying into handwriting book. The school day was from 8.30 to 12.30, after which he was free. Most of the school intake were from a ramshackle village near by and a conscript army camp.

How very foolish we were. He was way ahead of all his contemporaries, girls included, and has had to mark time in many lessons since. The despairing question we often ask ourselves now is obvious: if our son, clever, but not a genius, could do this in foreign language he had by no means mastered, in a school with no resources and in half a school day, what in heaven's name had his contemporaries been doing all that time to have achieved so little?

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH BANGS JONES,  
Downlands,  
3 Down Lane, Braunton, Devon.  
December 4

### School standards

From Mrs Elizabeth Bangs Jones

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Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH BANGS JONES,  
Downlands,  
3 Down Lane, Braunton, Devon.  
December 4

### War against polio

From the Deputy Executive Director of Unicef — UK

Sir, The logistics of the massive immunisation campaign to eradicate polio in India (report, November 29), together with the need to keep the vaccine safe from excessive heat while working in deserts and extremes of temperature, make this a staggering undertaking.

Over the last year, 145 million children under five years of age have been vaccinated against polio throughout the former Soviet Union and Central Asia, 60 million in 25 countries in Africa, 80 million in China and, in the next two months, 125 million in India. Every child missed is regarded as a lost opportunity; it is virtually a personal service for each of the 430

million children under five in the developing world.

The partnership which has enabled this phenomenal campaign to be waged successfully has included the World Health Organisation, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Rotary International and the United Nations Children's Fund. This partnership has worked in the best spirit of the new direction called for in the Government White Paper, *Eliminating World Poverty*, published last month (report and leading article, November 6; letters, November 13) and shows that this approach works.

Yours faithfully,  
MARIE STAUNTON,  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Unicef — UK,  
55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.  
December 2

### Matters of conscience

From Mrs Mary Beard

Sir, Lord Rix's letter today suggests that Members of Parliament have few opportunities "to speak their own minds and vote according to their principles".

Meanwhile, on the front page yesterday, your report on the Government's problems with benefit cuts says that the Labour whips may "try to outflank the rebels by giving them leave from parliamentary duties to spend time in their constituencies during the crucial vote".

The implication of this is that the party and not the electorate can determine whether an elected Member is present in the House to cast his or her vote on legislation.

Democracy?  
Yours truly,  
MARY BEARD,  
Dromore House,  
Kesh, Co Fermanagh.  
December 2

### Irish beef exports

From Mr Alexander Ferguson



## OBITUARIES

## GLYN DEARMAN

Glyn Dearman, BBC radio drama producer, died on November 30 following a fall at his London home aged 57. He was born on December 30, 1939.

**G**lyn Dearman was a fearless and enthusiastic radio drama producer, in an association with the BBC which had, including his acting career, lasted for more than 45 years. In that time he had presided over work ranging from popular serials to classical drama, notably his Shakespeare productions with Kenneth Branagh, in which the nonagenarian Sir John Gielgud participated.

As a child actor he had parts in a number of *Children's Hour* productions; he had started as Jennings in the serial *Jennings at School*, which ran for a number of years and was wildly popular with young and old. At the same time as working hard on radio was appearing in several British films. In 1951 he featured as Tiny Tim to Alastair Sim's Scrooge in the film of that title and as Little Arthur in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, giving suitably tear-jerking performances in both these roles.

This early stardom was slightly at odds with a family background which included three aunts who had married into the peerage. They were three of the six daughters of his grandmother, Kate Meyrick, who had taken to running nightclubs in the 1920s in order to pay for their education. Her clubs, especially the "43" in Gerrard Street, were patronised by the then Prince of Wales, King Carol of Romania, Noel Coward and other members of high society.

He much admired his grandmother, and it is possible that his flair for production and for casting was due to her example, since he always maintained that a good production was rather like giving a good party. She would certainly have approved of many of his star-filled casts of later

years, one of which included the present Prince of Wales, whom he persuaded to play Prince Hal to Sir Robert Stephens's Falstaff in a 1994 recording of Shakespearean excerpts issued on cassette and CD as *The Prince's Choice*.

Once his voice had broken, Dearman remained an actor and concentrated on radio. He joined the BBC Drama Repertory Company and had a continuing role in the popular daily soap opera *Mrs Dale's Diary*. Little did he realise then that it would fail to his lot to terminate this long-running serial in 1969, after it had changed its name to *The Dales* and after Jesse Matthews, with whom he had an excellent, mutually admiring rapport, had taken over the part of Mrs Dale. He had earlier become a producer of the programme, and by the time of its demise had been its editor-in-chief for more than two years.

He immediately moved on to run its replacement as a daily soap opera, *Wagoners' Walk*. So successful was this programme that it came to beat *The Archers* in the ratings charts, and much credit for this must go to Dearman, his organisational skills and his establishment of a brilliant team of writers and actors.

Six years under the daily pressure of soap operas is a gruellingly long time, and it was with some relief that he moved into the mainstream of radio drama production. Here he was able to exploit his talents for light comedy, his technical expertise, his feeling for music, and his ear for casting as well as his flair for publicity. He recognised the value of star-casting and was never afraid to work with the biggest names in the business. There are few in the current theatrical aristocracy who have not worked with him, and all would acknowledge their enjoyment of the experience. He worked hard with his actors, but always made the process fun.

He won national and international awards for his work. Among prizewinning productions were *Gormenghast* by Andrew Sachs called *The Revenge*.

Mervyn Peake starring the singer Sting: *Come Unto These Yellow Sands* by Angela Carter (he also directed her *Company of Wolves*, which was later made into a full-length feature film); and an experimental piece of radio drama by the actor Andrew Sachs called *The Revenge*.

This was a play without words, and since it needed no translation it is not surprising that this prizewinning production was aired by most of the world's leading broadcasting organisations.

He daringly cast John Osborne and Jill Bennett, in their happier married days, in three plays by Feydeau; he was responsible for a masterly production of Sandy Wilson's *Valentines*, starring Sheila Fielding and Elisabeth Welch; and a serialisation of Jeffrey Archer's *Not a Penny Less*, 1980, so boosting sales of the original novel that it set its author well

on the road to fortune, if not to genuine literary fame. *Sweeney*, *Maigret*, *Dracula*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Claudius*, *Frankenstein*, were all familiar characters to him and were perfectly cast by him.

In more recent years he worked with Kenneth Branagh and his Renaissance Theatre Company on radio productions of *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *King Lear* with Sir John Gielgud who was 90 at the time of the recording in the title role (ten years too old for the part, as the theatrical knight remarked).

These productions were also issued on cassette and CD, but too much of a radio producer's work is ephemeral and rests in memory or locked in the archive at Broadcasting House, unlikely ever to be heard again, especially after April next year, when few plays transmitted will be of a duration longer than 60 minutes. Disenchanted by what he saw as having become a joyless institution which was uninterested in people and the creative spirit, he took early retirement from the BBC in 1995 and set up his own independent audio company, Arcadia.

AS A clerk in the Foreign Office, John Coulson was responsible for sending off the telegram which declared war on Hitler in 1939. It was a momentous start to an eventful war for Coulson, then a rising young star in Whitehall. After spells in the Ministry of Economic Warfare and the War Cabinet Office, he returned to the Foreign Office as deputy to Gladwyn Jebb in the Department for Postwar Reconstruction, with special responsibility for economic matters. During the war he also travelled in the entourage of the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, to several of the big three-power conferences, including those in Moscow, Cairo and Potsdam.

Newly appointed CMG at the astonishingly early age of 37, Coulson was posted to Paris in 1946, then to New York as deputy head of Britain's delegation to the UN. He headed the economic affairs department of the Foreign Office from 1952 to 1955, before returning to the United States as minister in the Embassy in Washington.

The Suez crisis then provided him with one of the hardest tests of his career. Left in charge at the British Embassy in Washington during an interregnum between the departure of one Ambassador, Sir Roger Makins, and the arrival of his successor, Sir Harold Caccia, Coulson was summoned to the White House by President Eisenhower to explain British policy — which was no clearer to him than to the President. There followed equally difficult dialogues with the hostile American Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles. But Coulson acquitted himself well and was advanced to KCMG at the remarkably early age of 48.

He returned to Britain as assistant to the Paymaster General, Reginald Maudling, charged with the impossible task of negotiating a free trade area within Europe, at a time when Whitehall was scared that Britain was in danger of being left behind by the formation of the Common Market. Various options were being explored to create new trading links with the original six Common Market powers, and Coulson toured European capitals trying to sell them the wider British proposals, which were eventually thrown out by the French. In the end, the Government had to be content with an exclusive European Free Trade Association.

Coulson was a slightly built and unassuming man, whose quiet dry sense of humour made him popular with subordinates. On retiring he accepted several directorships, two of them with Swedish companies, but otherwise busied himself with voluntary work. He was for seven years president of the Hampshire branch of the Red Cross. When off-duty he was happiest fly-fishing for trout on the fitch.

In 1944 he married his wife, Mavis, who had worked for him as a secretary at the Foreign Office. She and their two sons survive him.

## SIR JOHN COULSON

Sir John Coulson, KCMG, Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association (Efta) 1965-72, died on November 15 aged 88. He was born on September 13, 1909.

The organisation was in a grouping known as the "outer seven", whose founder members were the "little six" less influential European nation states: Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, plus, of course, the UK. On Coulson's career, however, the creation of Efta was to have a decisive influence.

In 1960, after Maudling's move to be President of the Board of Trade, he left the Paymaster General's office for Stockholm as British Ambassador, returning three years later as a deputy under-secretary, in charge of administration — at a time when the Foreign Office was preparing for its eventual merger, in 1967, with the Commonwealth Relations Office. In 1965 he was himself preparing to take over as Britain's envoy in Madrid — and had already started to learn Spanish — when a plea came from Efta.

The organisation was in sudden need of a new Secretary-General, and its Scandinavian member countries were unanimous in calling for Coulson. As well as having been prominent in the negotiations which had established the free trade area, he had made a good impression during his three years in Stockholm. Yielding to persuasion, he left the Foreign Office to take over the Efta office in Geneva.

Seven years later, on the eve of Britain's long-delayed entry into the EEC and (with Denmark) departure from Efta, he retired. His last assignment as Secretary-General had been to seek assurances that the interests of those still in Efta would be protected.

John Eltringham Coulson was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, the son of a coal industry executive. He won a scholarship to Rugby, where he was head of his house, and another scholarship to Corpus Christi, Cambridge, where he took a double first in classics. The college made him an honorary fellow in 1975. He was also a gifted linguist, adding Russian, Swedish and Romanian to the French and German demanded by the Diplomatic Service.

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## WILLIAM PERRIE

William Perrie, prison governor, died on November 15 aged 79. He was born on April 11, 1918.

IN A career spanning more than 30 years, William Perrie was one of the leading prison governors in the country. For 16 years, between 1962 and 1978, he was in charge of four different prisons, including three of the most difficult. His time as a governor coincided with three decades of tribulation and disaster for the Prison Service.

A series of high-profile es-

capades in that of George Blake from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966, Lord Mountbatten's subsequent inquiry eventually led to the setting-up of a number of high-security prisons, with dog patrols, closed-circuit television surveillance and multiple barriers to escape. These "dispersal prisons" — so-called because the highest risk prisoners were dispersed among them — included Hull Prison, to which Perrie was posted in 1968.

He was so successful at Hull that he was promoted to the top class of governor and given charge of the new prison at Long Lartin, near Worcester,

ter, in 1970. He was governor there for five distinguished years.

In 1975 Birmingham's Winson Green Prison became a focus of controversy. Following the arrest of those charged with Birmingham pub bombings, serious allegations were made about their treatment by the police and prison warders.

Because of his reputation, Perrie was selected by the Prison Service to take on this thankless assignment. His guidance helped to maintain morale through the trial of some of the staff (who were eventually acquitted), and then laid the foundations for a recovery before his retirement in 1978.

Bill Perrie — as he was always known — was a big, robust man, keen on jogging even in his retirement. He had a sharp intellect and an inquiring mind. His understanding of prisons was considerable, and so was his influence on those who worked with him. His best work was in devising regimes for prisoners serving very long sentences who had to be kept in high security conditions — a new problem arising from the abolition of capital punishment.

The very long sentences first imposed on the notorious train robbers and on George Blake provided a complex challenge (though Blake escaped after only 5½ years). Seeking to balance security with the individual needs, Perrie finally found a workable solution. He was prepared to discuss the prisoners' particular problems and offer them a little humane flexibility, in matters such as personal possessions and dress.

He is survived by his wife, Olive, and their son.

As a result of this, Perrie was well respected by both prisoners and staff, which was a considerable achievement at a time of inmate disturbances and staff industrial action. Such was his standing that after his retirement an annual lecture was established and named after him. In 1993 the Perrie Lecture was given by the then Shadow Home Secretary, Tony Blair.

William Perrie was born in Larkhall, Lanarkshire, and left school at 15. He worked as a painter and decorator until the outbreak of war, when he joined the Lowland Division.

He served with the

Reconnaissance Corps, rising to be a sergeant major and being mentioned in dispatches.

After the war he joined the Prison Service as an officer at Norwich Prison, soon moving to Hollesley Bay Borstal. His ability, especially with young offenders, soon caught the eye of the Prison Commissioners, and he was selected for promotion to assistant governor. He served at Camp Hill, Leyhill and Wakefield — working largely with young offenders — before being posted as deputy governor to Cardiff Prison from 1958 to 1960.

This was followed by a spell in charge of the boys' prison at Wormwood Scrubs before he went back to South Wales as Governor of Swansea Prison in 1962. Three years later he was commended in an appeal judgment by the Lord Chief Justice for his efforts with, and kindness towards, a very inadequate prisoner. That incident typifies Bill Perrie's character.

He is survived by his wife, Olive, and their son.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## UK HOLIDAYS

NEWCASTLE Standard Leisure 0191 209444 Fax 0191 459 4222.

## WINTER SPORTS

FRENCH ALPS Chamonix 04 50 52 00 00, 04 50 52 00 01, 04 50 52 00 02, 04 50 52 00 03, 04 50 52 00 04, 04 50 52 00 05, 04 50 52 00 06, 04 50 52 00 07, 04 50 52 00 08, 04 50 52 00 09, 04 50 52 00 10, 04 50 52 00 11, 04 50 52 00 12, 04 50 52 00 13, 04 50 52 00 14, 04 50 52 00 15, 04 50 52 00 16, 04 50 52 00 17, 04 50 52 00 18, 04 50 52 00 19, 04 50 52 00 20, 04 50 52 00 21, 04 50 52 00 22, 04 50 52 00 23, 04 50 52 00 24, 04 50 52 00 25, 04 50 52 00 26, 04 50 52 00 27, 04 50 52 00 28, 04 50 52 00 29, 04 50 52 00 30, 04 50 52 00 31, 04 50 52 00 32, 04 50 52 00 33, 04 50 52 00 34, 04 50 52 00 35, 04 50 52 00 36, 04 50 52 00 37, 04 50 52 00 38, 04 50 52 00 39, 04 50 52 00 40, 04 50 52 00 41, 04 50 52 00 42, 04 50 52 00 43, 04 50 52 00 44, 04 50 52 00 45, 04 50 52 00 46, 04 50 52 00 47, 04 50 52 00 48, 04 50 52 00 49, 04 50 52 00 50, 04 50 52 00 51, 04 50 52 00 52, 04 50 52 00 53, 04 50 52 00 54, 04 50 52 00 55, 04 50 52 00 56, 04 50 52 00 57, 04 50 52 00 58, 04 50 52 00 59, 04 50 52 00 60, 04 50 52 00 61, 04 50 52 00 62, 04 50 52 00 63, 04 50 52 00 64, 04 50 52 00 65, 04 50 52 00 66, 04 50 52 00 67, 04 50 52 00 68, 04 50 52 00 69, 04 50 52 00 70, 04 50 52 00 71, 04 50 52 00 72, 04 50 52 00 73, 04 50 52 00 74, 04 50 52 00 75, 04 50 52 00 76, 04 50 52 00 77, 04 50 52 00 78, 04 50 52 00 79, 04 50 52 00 80, 04 50 52 00 81, 04 50 52 00 82, 04 50 52 00 83, 04 50 52 00 84, 04 50 52 00 85, 04 50 52 00 86, 04 50 52 00 87, 04 50 52 00 88, 04 50 52 00 89, 04 50 52 00 90, 04 50 52 00 91, 04 50 52 00 92, 04 50 52 00 93, 04 50 52 00 94, 04 50 52 00 95, 04 50 52 00 96, 04 50 52 00 97, 04 50 52 00 98, 04 50 52 00 99, 04 50 52 00 100, 04 50 52 00 101, 04 50 52 00 102, 04 50 52 00 103, 04 50 52 00 104, 04 50 52 00 105, 04 50 52 00 106, 04 50 52 00 107, 04 50 52 00 108, 04 50 52 00 109, 04 50 52 00 110, 04 50 52 00 111, 04 50 52 00 112, 04 50 52 00 113, 04 50 52 00 114, 04 50 52 00 115, 04 50 52 00 116, 04 50 52 00 117, 04 50 52 00 118, 04 50 52 00 119, 04 50 52 00 120, 04 50 52 00 121, 04 50 52 00 122, 04 50 52 00 123, 04 50 52 00 124, 04 50 52 00 125, 04 50 52 00 126, 04 50 52 00 127, 04 50 52 00 128, 04 50 52 00 129, 04 50 52 00 130, 04 50 52 00 131, 04 50 52 00 132, 04 50 52 00 133, 04 50 52 00 134, 04 50 52 00 135, 04 50 52 00 136, 04 50 52 00 137, 04 50 52 00 138, 04 50 52 00 139, 04 50 52 00 140, 04 50 52 00 141, 04 50 52 00 142, 04 50 52 00 143, 04 50 52 00 144, 04 50 52 00 145, 04 50 52 00 146, 04 50 52 00 147, 04 50 52 00 148, 04 50 52 00 149, 04 50 52 00 150, 04 50 52 00 151, 04 50 52 00

## NEWS

**Help planned for beef ban farms**

An emergency package of help for the livestock industry is being considered by the Government against a background of spreading protests by British farmers angry at the impact of cheap beef imports on their crisis-torn industry.

As farmers blockading British ports were told that they were not above the law, the Cabinet decided to set up a far-reaching inquiry into the origins and conduct of the BSE crisis as part of its efforts to restore confidence in British beef. Pages 1, 4

**Prince and the pauper**

The Prince of Wales clearly did not recognise the middle-aged man sitting next to him, whom he thought was about to explain what it is like to make a living by selling *The Big Issue*. But self-confessed alcoholic Clive Harold stunned the Prince when he said: "We were at school together". Pages 1, 3

**World Cup draw**

England are in one of the easier pools after the 1998 World Cup draw. They meet Romania, Tunisia and Colombia. Scotland have to play Brazil, Morocco and Norway. Page 1, 54

**Joining the queue**

Former Cabinet Ministers, as Privy Councillors, are now threatened with the loss of their traditional precedence in Commons debates. Page 1

**Prisoners' rights**

Curbs on the freedom of prisoners to talk to journalists were imposed by the Court of Appeal when it rejected that they were in breach of free speech. Page 2

**Al Fayed accused**

Tony Rowland is accusing Mohamed Al Fayed of offering him £10 million and a shirt shop to level false bribery allegations against Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary. Page 6

**Cost of care**

Everyone may have to pay towards the cost of their nursing home care, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, signalled as he announced the setting up of a Royal Commission. Page 3

**Opera resignation**

The chairman of the Royal Opera House resigned a day after the publication of a parliamentary report on Covent Garden's management. Page 9

**A step in the wrong direction**

The British front doorsteps is to be sacrificed to political correctness. The construction minister, Nick Raynsford, will announce changes to the building regulations before Christmas that will make level thresholds mandatory on all new homes to ensure access for wheelchairs. Existing buildings will not be affected. Pages 1, 5



Stirling Castle bathed in a new floodlighting system that has cost £500,000, including dramatic lighting effects inside the building.

## BUSINESS

**Euro money:** The European Investment Bank is set to offer Railtrack £600 million in loans to help kick-start the company's ambitious investment programme. The Railtrack loans form part of a package totalling £1 billion. Page 29

**Pensions:** Britain's biggest insurer, the Prudential, has for the second time missed a crucial regulatory deadline for dealing with its most serious cases of pensions mis-selling. Page 29

**Mortgages:** The Halifax delivered a blow to its 2.5 million borrowers, increasing its mortgage rate from 8.45 per cent to 8.7. Page 29

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 rose 111.6 to 5082.3. Sterling fell to 104.9, falling from DM2.973 to DM2.9670 and \$1.6836 to \$1.6762. Page 32

**London**

**Leisure:** Greg Rusedski withdrew from the Albert Hall doubles even though he had been practising in the morning and had scheduled a further session. Page 54

**London**

**Motorists:** The AA has issued a warning to drivers to stay off roads in the south of England because of the bad weather. Page 54

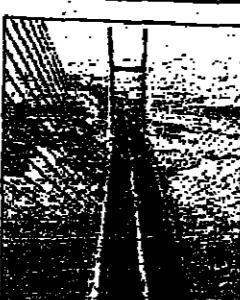
**London**

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# THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2  
TODAY

## BUSINESS

Low-key bank builds  
bridges in markets  
as EMU approaches  
**PAGE 33**



## EDUCATION

Not always a happy  
country life  
for schoolchildren  
**PAGE 43**



## SPORT

England look to  
Smithies for  
World Cup lead  
**PAGES 48-56**

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
54, 55**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

## Halifax lifts rate as Bank of England marks time

By JOHN GIVENS AND JANET BUSHE

**THE** Halifax bank yesterday delivered a pre-Christmas bombshell to its 2.5 million borrowers, increasing its mortgage rate from 8.45 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

The bank said that it was responding to the quarter-point increase in base rates last month. Its announcement coincided with news that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee had decided to leave base rates unchanged this month.

extra in mortgage payments over the course of the year starting on April 1.

This latest blow for homeowners coincided with more evidence that the consumer boom is finally beginning to feel the impact of repeated rises in base rates since the election.

The November distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry, published yesterday, showed a considerable slowdown in the growth of retail sales volumes. This gave backing to

anecdotal reports this week that retailers have had a very disappointing November.

The CBI said that 48 per cent of retailers saw higher sales volumes in November, with 25 per cent seeing a fall. This left a positive balance of only 23 per cent, well down on October's 38 per cent.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the survey, said that underlying growth in sales is continuing to hold up and that retailers are cautiously optimistic that consumers will spend more

freely in the remaining weeks to Christmas. However, he said that retailers' optimism had been unjustified in seven of the past 12 surveys.

Halifax's borrowers on annual review schemes are facing a considerable shock. Those who had their payments fixed at 7.25 per cent last January will now see their interest rate leap to Halifax's new standard variable rate of 8.7 per cent on April 1, assuming no further rate rises by the end of January.

This means that a homeowner with a £60,000 interest-only mortgage will see the monthly payment rise from £335.33 to £413.25.

To make matters worse, these borrowers will also have to absorb the reduction in mortgage tax relief from 15 per cent to 10 per cent on April 6.

On the stock market, the FTSE 100 index closed 11.6 points higher at 5,082.3, buoyed by signs that institutions are ploughing cash into UK shares before end-of-the-year portfolio reviews.

**BUSINESS TODAY**

## STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100 ..... 5082.3 (+11.6)  
Year to date ..... 22.2%  
FTSE All share ..... 2306.5 (-143.4)  
Nikkei ..... 16306.79 (-278.72)  
New York ..... 8111.83 (+79.82)  
S&P Composite ..... 982.98 (+8.21)

## US RATE

Federal Funds ..... 5.04% (5.04%)  
Long Bond ..... 10.17% (10.15%)  
Yield ..... 6.01%\* (6.02%)

## LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank ..... 7.7% (7.7%)  
Libor long gilt future (Mar) ..... 12.0% (11.9%)

## STERLING

New York	1.6713*	(1.6843)
S. London	1.6757	(1.6830)
S. DM	2.9865	(2.9777)
FF	9.9296	(9.9860)
SF	2.3990	(2.4041)
Yen	216.78	(218.80)
S Index	107.1	(105.3)

Tokyo close Yen 129.25

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb) ..... \$18.15 (\$18.20)

## LONDON GOLD

London close ..... \$288.55 (\$292.45)

\* denotes midday trading price

## EIB offers £600m to support Railtrack upgrades

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

**THE** European Investment Bank is set to offer Railtrack £600 million in loans to help to kick-start the company's ambitious investment plans.

The Railtrack loans form part of a £1 billion package that the EIB, the European Union's financing institution, has negotiated with British companies.

Major financing has also been granted to Orange, the mobile phone company, to improve its UK network, and to the Manchester Metro tram service to complete its phase two development.

The EIB, which is owned by 15 EU member states, has earmarked up to £300 million to support Railtrack's £580 million Thameslink project which links commuter routes north of London with the South Coast through Central London.

Railtrack, which hopes for final approval for the project after an inquiry next summer, is aiming to expand the number of stations covered by the network from 50 to 200 and to treble carrying capacity under the River Thames.

A further £300 million is to be lent for Railtrack's £1 billion station upgrade programme. Manchester Piccadilly is likely to be one of the first beneficiaries in a £21 million revamp that will include the installation of 10,000 panes of glass in the station roof, which is 700 ft long, as well as an overhaul of the platforms, lifts and other facilities.

Sir Brian Urwin, president of the EIB, said discussions were also continuing on support for Railtrack's £2.1 billion plan to upgrade the notorious West Coast main line from London Euston to Glasgow.

Railtrack has already signed an innovative revenue-

sharing deal with Virgin, which operates the route, to help to finance improvements aimed at cutting journey times and improving reliability.

The EIB also awarded Orange about £240 million to help to expand its mobile phone network across the UK, increasing the number of base station sites from 2,900 to 6,000 by early 1999 and 10,000 by 2001, greatly enhancing the quality of the network.

The company said yesterday it was in the process of completing a series of deals that will raise its lending facilities from £1.2 billion to £1.75 billion, including the EIB loan. It is aiming to expand its presence abroad in addition to the UK network upgrade.

The UK is a significant recipient of EIB funds which are targeted at big infrastructure projects and EU assistance areas. Last year Britain received about 2.4 billion eu (£1.6 billion) out of the EIB's total lending of 23 billion eu. The EIB uses its strong credit rating to offer cheap part-financing for projects.

Railtrack revealed earlier this year that it was intending to spend a total of £16 billion over the next ten years on the rail infrastructure. The company intends to overhaul about 2,500 km of rail and 1,200 bridges while refining more than 2,000 stations.

The company recently launched its first bond issue, raising £300 million, and said it intends to return regularly to the capital markets as it increases its gearing from £600 million to £3 billion.

Building bridges, page 33



Denis Cassidy, left, with Andrew Garety, finance director, thinks the vote on his future will be close because of support from the 'outer family'

## Liberty a house divided over chairman

By PAUL DURMAN

**THE** battle for control of Liberty has divided the founding family, with many family shareholders lining up with the board against Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty, widow of the department store company's

former chairman, Mrs Stewart-Liberty, in league with Brian Myerson, the South African investor, seeking to remove Denis Cassidy as Liberty's chairman at next Thursday's shareholder meeting. Mrs Stewart-Liberty, Mr Myerson and other support-

ers already speak for 47 per cent of the company, but Mr Cassidy yesterday said the vote will be very close because of the strong support he has from the 'outer family'. Mr Cassidy claimed he already has indications of support from shareholders represent-

ing about 34 per cent of the company. This includes proxies for about 14 of the 16 per cent held by the 30 or so family members who are not part of the concert party.

Mr Myerson said yesterday: "Shareholders with 47 per cent have lost confidence

in Denis Cassidy. Barring disasters we will win the day. This is all about Denis trying to keep his job. All this will be wasted money and wasted time." Liberty hopes to attract support from the 31 per cent holding of institutions. Commentary, page 31

## Prudential again fails to meet mis-selling deadline

By CAROLINE MERRELL

**PRUDENTIAL** Corporation, the UK's biggest insurer, has again missed a crucial regulatory deadline for dealing with its most serious cases of pension mis-selling.

Prudential, whose chief executive, Sir Peter Davis apologised on national television for its part in the £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal only three weeks ago, claims that the delays have been caused by victims not returning important information. Prudential has the highest number of possible cases, at 71,358.

The company recently launched its first bond issue, raising £300 million, and said it intends to return regularly to the capital markets as it increases its gearing from £600 million to £3 billion.

Building bridges, page 33



Davis' public apology

priority" category. These are customers who are dead or who have retired.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), which regulates the Prudential, initially gave the company until the end of September to sort

out 90 per cent of its priority cases. After it failed to meet this deadline, the regulator gave the Prudential until the end of last month to compensate all its priority cases — it still has 2,771 cases to go.

Despite its failure, it appears the Prudential will escape a fine, although a spokesman from the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which now regulates the Prudential, said it is considering what action it could take.

As a conciliatory gesture, the Prudential has made cash payments totalling £7 million to these 2,771 victims. The Prudential is paying £10,000 cash to the families of victims that have died and a further £2,500 to retired victims. These amounts will form part of the overall compensation package.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE

MAY BE A

COMMODITY,

BUT WE CAN

STILL BE

## CREATIVE

## TUC steps in to fight to keep pits open

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

**THE** Trades Union Congress is on a collision course for its first major public confrontation with the Government if the threat of closure of a large number of coal pits is not lifted.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, has put to Tony Blair a set of emergency plans to avert pit shutdowns which are feared because RJB Mining's current contracts fall short of its capacity. The TUC has seconded Dave Feltham, its European officer, to advise the coal unions and draft survival proposals for the industry.

If closures go ahead the TUC would take immediate action — possibly through a massive rally similar to the one that marked the Conservatives' closure programme. Mr Feltham

former researcher with the National Union of Mineworkers, said: "We won't have any choice but to respond."

A spokeswoman for Mr Monks said: "He is very concerned about this and has used every opportunity to put his case to ministers." So far the TUC has embraced labour relations reforms and pledged to work in partnership with business and the Government.

Today Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, meets leaders of two of the coal unions. But it is thought unlikely that he will detail closure plans. Instead it is expected that he will try to explain his plans before any government intervention.

Earlier this week the Prime Minister called a halt to the construction of new gas-fired power stations. Further measures to support the coal industry are being considered by the Government.

## Centrica agrees £365m 'take-or-pay' gas deal

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

**CENTRICA**, the gas business that includes British Gas, yesterday declared that its expensive take-or-pay obligations to buy high-priced gas were now back under control after agreeing to pay Conoco, Elf and Total a total of £365 million.

The deal, which could involve an extra £75 million payment to Conoco, take the total that Centrica has paid to bring contracts back in line with average gas prices to more than £750 million. The group has now renegotiated more than two thirds of the problematic deals. Kenneth Gardener, chief negotiator on the take-or-pay issue, said a further four agreements with oil companies were in the pipeline.

Roy Gardner, chief executive, said: "I now believe that unless we see a decline in market prices in the UK and the Continent, our inherited gas contract exposures have been reduced to a manageable level."

The latest deal, which follows a ground-breaking settlement with BP and Mobil earlier this year, means that Centrica has renegotiated all its contracts with Conoco and has restructured the majority of its contracts with Elf and Total. The extra payment it may make to Conoco covers additional volume and will run until 2008.

Centrica was saddled with the take-or-pay problem when the old British Gas was demerged earlier this year. In compensation it was given Morecambe Bay, the jewel in the crown of British Gas's exploration arm. Centrica shares rose 24p to 921p yesterday.

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## GrandMet calls time with £147m deck-clearance

By DOMINIC WALSH

A DECK-CLEARING exercise ahead of its £23 billion merger with Guinness knocked £17 million off annual profits at Grand Metropolitan, the Burger King to Smirnoff vodka group.

Provisions relating to the sale of such businesses as the Imattropeau Pulp Company, Burger King's French operation and Pillsbury's Aunt Nellie's Kitchens restricted the company to pre-tax profits of £334 million in the year to September 30. Excluding exceptionalities, the figure was in line with analysts' expectations at £381 million, a 1.7 per cent increase.

Sterling's strength wiped £7 million from pre-tax profits, although hedging of its US exposure reduced the net impact by £14 million. At level exchange rates pre-tax profits were 9 per cent ahead. Turnover dipped

from £8.97 billion to £8.17 billion. Admitting to a degree of nostalgia as he brought down the curtain on the company's 43-year existence, George Bull, chairman, said: "As it departs the world, GrandMet is in good shape. All the bits and pieces we needed to do have been done, profits are excellent and we're very excited."

IDV, the group's spirits division, lifted operating profits 6 per cent in local currency terms to £460 million. Pillsbury, the US food business, improved profits 12 per cent to £457 million, while Burger King was up 8 per cent, at £170 million.

John McGrath, chief executive, said the creation of Diageo, to be completed in two weeks, would prompt rivals to consider consolidation.

Earnings per share, excluding exceptionalities, rose 0.6 per cent to 31.2p, but as a result of the merger there is no final dividend. Diageo shareholders will receive a 12.5p interim dividend in April.

## GEC starts shake-up with £4bn flotation

By ADAM JONES

THE restructuring of GEC went into full swing yesterday with the announcement of the flotation of GEC Alsthom and a £300 million share buyback.

GEC shares rose 13.1p to 403.1p, banishing some of the negative sentiment that followed its failure to buy the defence electronics arm of Siemen and its exclusion from the restructuring of Thomson, the French defence group.

The flotation of GEC Alsthom, its power engineering and transportation joint venture with Alcatel Alsthom of France, is scheduled for the first six months of 1998. Both GEC and Alcatel will sell 26 per cent, retaining 24 per cent each for at least a year after flotation.

Analysts were valuing GEC Alsthom, which will be known as Alsthom when it becomes a listed French company, at £3.5 to £4 billion, suggesting that

GEC may receive about £375 million after tax from the sale.

George Simpson, GEC managing director, said GEC has been in talks with a number of other companies about defence industry consolidation in Europe, including British Aerospace, but he said there was no particular proposals discussed.

Analysts said GEC continued to dismiss speculation of a merger with British Aerospace.

Mr Simpson said the recent amalgamation of French defence interests was not necessarily a precursor to UK companies banding together.

The principle of a share buyback was authorised at the annual meeting in September.

GEC said yesterday that up to £300 million of ordinary shares would be bought through SBC Warburg Dillon Read. The board will consider further repurchase programmes if appropriate.

Mr Simpson announced a 9 per cent rise in underlying sales, excluding currency effects, in the six months to September 30. Turnover rose to £5.1 billion. Profits before tax and exceptional items rose from £421 million to £442 million. This would have been £24 million higher at constant exchange rates. The company said the high underlying rate of growth may not be sustained in the second half.

Operating profits at GEC Marconi rose 24 per cent when the effect of currency and acquisition was stripped out driven by volume increases.

On the same basis, the industrial group rose 21 per cent and GEC Alsthom 22 per cent. Operating profits for GEC's share of GPT, the telecommunications joint venture with Siemens of Germany, fell 1 per cent, however, as price falls wiped out volume growth.

Tempus, page 32



Frank Sytner, whose stake in the motor dealer will be worth £16.7 million after the stock market flotation

## Sytner flotation seeks £4m cash

By FRASER NELSON

FRANK SYTNER, chairman of Sytner, is raising around £4 million cash from the flotation of the motor dealer and will continue to hold a stake of 33 per cent of the company, worth £16.7 million at the placing price of 230p a share. This price

values the company at £50 million and it is floating on a prospective multiple of 11 times 1997 earnings.

Of the £21 million raised in the flotation, £16.9 million will go into the company. Share dealings are expected

from December 11. Sytner represents BMW, Chrysler, Jeep, Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Volkswagen, Ferrari, Porsche and Daihatsu and is the sole importer of the BMW Alpina. It is the UK's largest dealer in new and used cars.

## GUS ahead despite fall in catalogues

By ROBERT BRUCE

GREAT Universal Stores has admitted that it may have been overzealous in upgrading the service for its Kays catalogue after watching the division's operating profit fall 7 per cent at the halfway stage.

The retailer, which has added 24-hour call centres and next-day courier service for its catalogue orders, said the extra investment may be scaled back from the current level — understood to be more than £300,000 a week.

The catalogue division, whose titles include Choices, Marshall Ward and Disney, saw its operating profit drop to £38.5 million (£41.3 million) in the six months to September.

ber 30, although sales rose by 6.5 per cent to £704 million. City analysts took heart from the revenue increase, and the shares rose 25p to 710p.

The company has also agreed to buy six catalogue titles from the Burton Group for £20 million, including Innovations. Overall pre-tax profits were £254 million (£237 million) for the half year. Earnings were 17.3p (15.6p) a share.

Lord Wolfson, chairman, said second-half trading was in line with the first six months. The interim dividend rises to 6p (5.5p), and is due on February 27.

Tempus, page 32

## Deloitte left further behind bigger rivals

By ROBERT BRUCE

DELOITTE & TOUCHE, the smallest of the Big Six accounting firms and one of the two firms to eschew the current round of mergers, has released figures showing that its growth rate is not matching the rest of the top firms.

Worldwide the firm reported record revenues up 14 per cent to \$7.4 billion (about £4.4 billion) and in the UK the growth rate was 10.4 per cent with fees up to £442.4 million. Ed Kangas, the firm's worldwide chairman, said the results "confirm that we have the momentum to remain successful, attract the best people, and thrive in today's marketplace".

However, yesterday's fig-

ures suggest Deloitte is losing ground to its bigger rivals. Ernst & Young recently reported UK income up 15 per cent, while Andersen Worldwide, the only other firm not to go for a merger, reported an increase in global revenues of 25 per cent.

Deloitte said that consulting revenues grew 15.5 per cent, while the accounting practice lifted revenue 9.4 per cent. But the figures must be a worry. If the mergers planned by Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand and by KPMG and Ernst & Young are approved, Deloitte would be last and going backwards in a market with only four significant players.

Lazard fined

Lazard Frères, the US investment bank, has agreed to pay \$12 million (about £7.16 million) in fines and restitution to settle federal charges that the brokerage defrauded investors on the sale of \$683 million in municipal bonds.

**UK preferred**  
The UK has maintained its record as the European country attracting the largest number of foreign investment projects. Ernst & Young's European Investment Monitor states.

**Drug move**

Chiroscience has submitted its application for European marketing approval of levobupivacaine, the anaesthetic.

## Britannia Life to cut jobs with phasing out of IFAs

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MORE than 400 jobs are to go at Britannia's life insurance operation as the building society withdraws from selling products through independent financial advisers and concentrates instead on branch distribution. The figure represents half the current workforce at the head office in Glasgow and 11 branches.

The move will mean the permanent loss of 240 jobs and the phasing out of a further 180 positions. Britannia Life, which has around 750,000 policies in force, will

withdraw from the independent financial adviser (IFA) market for new business with effect from December 12. In future life and pensions products will be solely distributed through its branch network.

John Hearn, chief executive, said: "While Britannia Life has been successful in recent years in growing in the IFA market, we do not believe that we will be able to compete profitably in the long term."

The group is now focusing on a single distribution channel — bancassurance. Britan-

nia investment and fund managers in Glasgow will continue to operate in the IFA market and are not affected by the restructuring.

The move follows a major review of the life business's distribution strategy, lasting almost a year. The group said it will lead to around 160 permanent job losses in Britannia Life's UK sales network. An additional 80 jobs will be lost at head office in Glasgow by the end of March 1998, and a further 180 jobs will be phased out by the end of 1999.

Stakis, the hotel and casino group, will next month press the start button for an £85 million extension of the London Metropole Hotel, which will take it to 1,000 bedrooms and triple its conference capacity.

David Michels, chief executive, said: "The project would turn the Metropole into 'the largest convention hotel in Europe bar none'. Its position would be further enhanced by the scheduled completion next year of the Heathrow Express railway link into the nearby Paddington station.

The £327 million acquisition of Metropole Hotels a year ago helped Stakis to achieve an 82 per cent jump in profits before tax and exceptionalities, to £55.9 million, in the year to September 28 on turnover 49 per cent better, at £307 million. Earnings per share reached 6.58p (5.4p), and a final dividend of 1.45p, to be paid on April 7, makes 2.5p (2.5p).

Metropole boosted hotel division profits by 86 per cent, to £74.9 million, while casinos

dropped slightly to £7.5 million after the sale of the Barracuda in London.

The LivingWell club business, acquired in May, contributed profits of £1.6 million.

Mr Michels said that, of the eight three-star hotels put up for sale in May, five were in solicitors' hands at a combined sale price of about £30 million.

The other three would probably be kept and upgraded to four-star standard.

## EUROPEAN BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### European and Asian orders light up TLG

A STRONGER than expected recovery in France and Germany gave a timely first-half uplift to TLG, the lighting group that had failed to sparkle since its demerger from Thorn EMI in 1995. The company also did well in Asia, where contracts included the £16.1 million deal for runway systems for Chek Lap Kok, Hong Kong's new airport. Hamish Bryce, chairman, said the emergency lighting and airfield lighting sectors would also underpin growth in the second half.

In the six months to September 30, TLG lifted pre-tax profits to £10 million, from £8.3 million. Earnings were 3.4p a share, up from 3p previously. The interim dividend is increased to 1.5p a share, from 1.4p previously. Interim profits have exceeded the pre-tax total of £8.6 million reported for the whole of the previous financial year when the company incurred a £13.5 million restructuring charge. TLG shares were unchanged yesterday at 100p, against a demerger price of 81p in early 1995.

### Avon Rubber confident

AVON RUBBER raised pre-tax profits from £21.5 million to £26.4 million in the year to September 27 on sales by continuing businesses up from £250.1 million to £251.9 million. Earnings rose from 50.6p to 70.8p, out of which the dividend for the year rises from 19.5p to 21.15p. The company said that it was confident of further progress notwithstanding the strength of sterling, and that extra capacity provided by recent investments would enable the automotive components division to meet increased demand. The shares rose 9p to 63.2p.

### Racal sells businesses

RACAL ELECTRONICS is selling the bulk of its health and safety equipment business to 3M for £43.2 million in cash. The businesses, which began with mining safety products in the 1970s, made an operating profit of £400,000 on turnover of about £45 million. They mainly produce respiratory protection equipment. The sale is due to be completed by January 30. The proceeds will be used to reduce Racal's net debt and the company is expecting an exceptional gain of about £20 million.

### Spear & Jackson sold

US INDUSTRIES, the American consumer products manufacturer that was formerly part of Hanson, has acquired Spear & Jackson, the UK manufacturer of hand and garden tools, from Apax Partners, the venture capital company, for £63.75 million. SJ suffered during the recession of the early 1990s but has made a strong recovery. Its hand tool, precision products and industrial saw divisions are based in Sheffield. US Industries owns Jacuzzi bathroom products, Ames garden tools, Ertl toys and Rexair vacuum cleaners.

### ML seeks to acquire

ML HOLDINGS is seeking acquisitions for its core electronic component distribution business. A £1.5 million one-off gain from selling its aerospace and marine division Cobham helped ML to lift pre-tax profits to £17.1 million (£3.7 million) in the half year to September 30. Continuing businesses lifted operating profits to £4.15 million, from £3.15 million. Adjusted earnings per share were 2.3p (1.6p). The interim dividend is 0.5p, up 25 per cent. ML is to be renamed Sedgemoor.

### FI buys IIS of India

FI GROUP, the supplier of computer software services, is to acquire IIS Infotech, an Indian computer software and training services company, for £22 million, plus possible further profit-related payments up to £2.7 million over the next 18 months. FI will partly fund the acquisition via a £14.6 million rights issue at 640p a share. Existing shares rose 95p to 832.2p yesterday. FI estimates its first half pre-tax profits at £4.3 million, up from £2.8 million.

### Oil prices help Expro

LOW oil prices have generated a significant increase in business for Expro International Group, the oilfield services company. It said energy groups were seeking to maximise production from deepwater reservoirs and marginal fields. Expro lifted pre-tax profits to £10 million, from £8.1 million, in the six months to September 30 on turnover of £61.6 million, up from £49.9 million. Earnings rose to 11.7p a share, from 9.5p. The interim dividend rises 15 per cent to 3.05p a share.

## EUROPEAN BUSINESS

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia \$	2.29	2.42
Austria Sch	21.21	20.25
Bulgaria L	1.43	1.53
Canada \$	2.207	2.319
Cyprus Cyp	0.913	0.841
Croatia Kn	1.10	1.10
Croatia Kn	1.03	1.03
France F	10.4	9.63
Germany DM	8.18	8.89
Iceland I	4.62	4.63
Iceland I	13.80	12.60
Ireland P	1.19	1.10
Italy Lira	0.93	0.95
Japan Yen	221.83	214.90
Korea W	0.95	0.97
Netherlands Gld	5.958	5.243
New Zealand S	2.93	2.69
Portugal P	3.70	3.70
Portugal P	316.03	290.00
Spain Pes	252.29	243.50
Spain Pes	1.93	1.78
Switzerland Fr	2.65	2.33
USA \$	587.97	576.88
USA \$	1.763	1.640

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.</

**A**s the stock market bounds upwards, spare a thought for those bemused investment managers who turned bearish months, and even years, ago. Their customers are beginning to turn nasty. Witness the decision of Surrey County Council to seek new handlers for its £750 million pension fund.

Surrey chose to parcel out its business among three managers who would all have claimed to be adopting the value approach to fund management, but who have conspicuously failed to deliver it to this client.

The trio of Mercury Asset Management, Garntmore and PDMF have, according to the disgruntled client, failed to outperform the CAPS median by 1 per cent over five years.

Both Garntmore and Mercury have acknowledged that they have been misjudging the market and have tweaked their stance and the way they apply it. Tony Dye and his colleagues at PDMF have remained resolutely convinced of the logic of their arguments and waited for the market to collapse — spectators at the party where others have been having a high time.

Pension fund trustees are generally a cautious bunch, and they tend to the view that if they put their trust in the giants of the industry they cannot be blamed for the results. Just to double bank on this, they generally pay a consultancy for reassurance on this point, and it is forthcoming

## Fund managers in a Surrey state



### COMMENTARY by our City Editor

for exactly the same safety-first reasons. But as the under-performance drags on, some trustees will begin to feel that they have a duty to look elsewhere, just as Surrey is doing.

Lossing this little bit of business is not going to concern Mercury overly, although it may cause a little chaff amongst the thunderers at Merrill Lynch, which has just paid £3 billion for the fund manager. And Garntmore's parent, National Westminster, will not be pleased to see business drifting away after the costly exodus it has just had to make from the equities business.

But the disquiet must be greatest at UBS, the Swiss parent of PDMF. The bank has remained a stoically supportive, if relatively silent, backer of Mr Dye as his determined pessimism has seen his clients lose money. As the stock market shrugs off even the dire goings-on in the Far East, that stoicism will be coming under new pressure.

The strategy of seeking out undervalued stocks makes sense and, as Mr Dye knows only too well, it requires the nerve to take a long-term view. But clients such as Surrey would contend that five years is a reasonably

long term over which to measure performance, and the PDMF strategy has not delivered.

As GEC and Reuters decide to lose cash upon their shareholders, sending their stock soaring in response, too many of the companies where PDMF spotted value are looking distinctly miserable. The only way that Laura Ashley, for instance, is going to provide value now is for those who can pick up a bargain in the stores.

#### Feel at liberty to vote for Cassidy

**T**he struggle to save Denis Cassidy's job as chairman of Liberty is beginning to look more of a close call than seemed possible. With the family shareholders divided, next Thursday's extraordinary meeting shows encouraging signs of being a lively affair.

With 47 per cent of the votes

already tucked away, the strange pairing of Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty and Brian Myerson remains favourite to have its way and to force Mr Cassidy's departure. But it is just about possible to see this contest as carefully balanced. After detailed scrutiny of its share register, Liberty reckons 31 per cent of its shares in the hands of institutions. Another 16 per cent is owned by the 30 or so family members who do not belong to the Stewart-Liberty Five. If the institutions and the outer family all back the board, the score is 47 all and Mr Cassidy's fate lies with the private shareholders who own the balance of 6 per cent.

One must not get carried away. Mr Cassidy still has a long way to go even on his own claim that he has the declared support of holders of 34 per cent of the company. Moreover, that claim is not backed up by hard numbers; the promised support from institutions may well fail to

materialise. Yet on the merits of the arguments, Mr Cassidy deserves to win. None of those involved seem to doubt that extensive redevelopment is needed at Liberty's neo-Tudor store. Mr Myerson has complained about the £43 million cost — a staggering sum, but one with which he had few quibbles a few months ago. Mr Myerson's principle objection to Mr Cassidy seems to be his unwillingness to take up Mr M's questionable proposals. Liberty's shares have been written off but it is difficult to say that at the door of Mr Cassidy. The store's results have shown some signs of recovery, but in truth it is still too early to judge the success of the changes he has overseen.

Why on earth Mrs Stewart-Liberty is working unfathomable. Mr Myerson has had his money tied up a long time and no doubt wants a profitable exit.

That aim is unlikely to sit easily with any intention she may have to re-instate her stepsons, as the management of Liberty.

Mr Cassidy still looks likely to lose his job. But while Mr Myerson may have the weight of money on his side, Mr Cassidy has the force of the arguments. Undecided investors should give their chairman their backing.

#### America's new Asian model

**T**riumphalist Western reactions to the crisis among Asia's tiger economies are increasingly bearing out the conspiracy theories of Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad. In America's geopolitics, the rise of Asian economies had become a threat to Western ascendancy, rather than a boost to global living standards.

Even Asian propagandists would, however, be hard put to outdo Mickey Kantor, who was America's chief troubleshooter in the last endless round of trade talks. Speaking at Wednesday's CBI dinner, the former US Commerce Secretary said the troubles of the tiger economies offered a golden opportunity for the West.

to reassert its commercial interests. When countries seek help from the International Monetary Fund, Europe and America should use the IMF as a battering ram to gain advantage.

The agenda includes deregulation, privatisation, the break-up of conglomerates plus "accountability and transparency", which embrace banning non-tariff barriers, opening banking to Western entry and clamping down on business/government links, which breed corruption.

Mr Kantor, though out of office, echoes views emanating from the IMF to the Federal Reserve. America only tolerated the Asian model, he claims, because of the Cold War. In the economic cold war, yesterday's friends are targets. The next trade round, he says, should start with Europe and North America ganging up on Japan, then force a four-way fix on everyone else.

#### One Lord a leaping

**N**O DOUBT he took an enormous amount of persuading, but Lord Hanson has graciously agreed not to desert his eponymous company, now a much-reduced version of the conglomerate. The £25,000-a-year salary he will receive as chairman emeritus can hardly have been the deciding factor but the sprightly peer will surely insist on earning his pay. If the management think they are getting a mere figure-head, they could be surprised.

## Reuters to return £1.5bn to investors

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

**R**EUETERS, the international news and information group, yesterday announced a capital restructuring designed to return £1.5 billion in excess capital to shareholders.

The move was welcomed in the City and Reuters shares rose 30½p to 710p, a 4.5 per cent increase in value compared with a 2.5 per cent rise in the stock market overall.

Reuters made clear that it saw its existing markets, primarily the different segments of the wholesale finance industry worldwide, as being already "sufficiently broad and demanding" and that it intended to maintain its present focused approach.

Rob Rowley, finance director, said the restructuring, under which a new holding company called Reuters Group will acquire Reuters Holdings, was in effect a way of bringing forward the abolition of ACT which would have otherwise made such a distribution impractical.

Mr Rowley said: "Reuters is not a mega-acquisition com-

pany. It's about understanding technology and applying it." The company expands mainly through organic growth and spends over £500 million a year on capital expenditure and research and development.

Under the plan, ordinary shareholders will receive 13 shares in Reuters Group plus £13.60 in cash for every 15 shares held. American depositary share holders will receive 13 new ADS plus the US dollar equivalent of £81.60 in cash for every 15 ADS held.

At the end of June Reuters had net cash of over £1.12 billion in spite of spending £1.27 billion on capital equipment and acquisitions in the three years to the end of 1996.

At the end of the exercise Reuters will have debt of around £300 million. Reuters said shareholder value would be enhanced through a reduction in Reuters cost of capital.

The restructuring will involve a one-off charge of about £30 million, which will be taken against 1997 earnings.

### Harvest hits Christian Salvesen

By FRASER NELSON

**C**HRISTIAN SALVESEN, the food processing and logistics company that halved in size after demerging Aggreko three months ago, yesterday said that a poor summer pea harvest has so far cost it £4.1 million.

The company, which relies on peas for 70 per cent of its profits, had to ship in more expensive foreign greens when the UK pea harvest fell 45 per cent in July and August.

Edward Rodenick, chief executive, said that even if next year's pea crop recovers, the pea business — worth £30 million — is unlikely to recover fully until 1999.

Overall pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30 rose to £47.6 million, against £51.6 million for the larger group last time. Earnings were 10.5p (12.3p) a share.

An interim dividend of 3.9p, against the 20.3p delivered through the special dividend last time, is due on February 2. The shares strengthened 9p to 103p yesterday.

### Honorary post for Hanson

By ADAM JONES

**L**ORD HANSON is to become chairman emeritus at the demerged conglomerate when he retires as chairman at the end of the month. It is seen in the City as a "figurehead" role (See Commentary, this page).

Meanwhile, falling gold prices and other woes at its mining associates forced Hanson, which recently split in a four-way demerger, to write off a further £9.4 million in its third quarter. A write-down in assets at RGC, the Australian mining company, accounted for £4.9 million. The rest of the £9.4 million write-off was from a fall in the market value of Goldfields, an Australian associate.

The building materials and aggregates company is moving to a December 31 financial year-end. It reported pre-tax profits of £13.1 million for the nine months to September 30, held back by exceptional charges from the mining interests, which totalled £5.5 million.

### Travel Group anxiety depresses Reed shares

**S**HARES in Reed International, the UK arm of Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch information and publishing group, yesterday fell 25½p, to 618p, amid continuing anxiety over previously announced problems in Reed Travel Group (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Reed Elsevier made clear in trading statement yesterday that there would be "substantial provisions" because of exaggerated circulation claims admitted by Reed Elsevier in external reports. Analysts expressed concern that the scale

of the problem has not been quantified and were worried that there could be litigation.

It did become clear yesterday that the company hopes to decide on a purchaser for its IPC consumer magazines division before the end of the year.

The deal could raise more than £800 million for Reed Elsevier.

Indicative offers are expected shortly, and, if the sums suggested are considered satisfactory, Reed Elsevier plans to move quickly to conclude a transaction early in 1998.

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My profits  
are up,  
but could they  
be higher?

My staff  
are good, but  
do they need  
further training?

My customers  
seem happy,  
but what if they  
go elsewhere?

YOUR COMPANY IS  
BUSIER THAN IT'S EVER BEEN.  
SO WHERE DO  
YOU GO FROM HERE?





ECONOMIC NEWS

ANTHONY HARRIS

# West must respond to threat of sick tiger disease in Asia

The crisis in the Far East economies could inflict real damage to growth and profit margins all over the world

**J**apan has announced what is likely to prove open-ended public protection for bank depositors, and the London market seems to have concluded that this is the end of its Asian nightmares. Japan can clean out its own Augen stable and London can get on with its cash-driven bull run. There is no shadow here of the other Asian news of the week: the fierce austerity imposed by the IMF bail-out for Korea, and its reflection in cutbacks in two huge Korean projects in the UK.

This seems perverse. The truth is that the Japanese banking crisis, more than ten years in the making, has never posed much of an external threat, provided that it was sensibly tackled. But the setback in the former "tiger" economies of the Asean group, which has roused few echoes on this side of the globe, must do real damage to growth, and to profit margins, all over the world. It has already inflicted a probably fatal defeat on President Clinton's drive for free trade, and could revive protectionism in Europe. True, the initial impact will be greatest in Japan (which must feel haunted) and in the US and Germany; but in a global economy, nobody is immune.

The Japanese "crisis" is simply an exaggerated replay of that epic American non-event, the Savings and Loans collapse of the 1980s — "Mad Financier, Part II" perhaps. Both are sagas of unsound lending financed with wholesale money. In both cases, the authorities were fully aware of the trouble at an early stage, but in both decided to settle for a sharp lecture, and the hope that ill-managed institutions could contrive their own salvation.

And the result was the same in both countries. The wounded banks were driven to even higher risks in their search for profit; so what had started as a crisis grew into a catastrophe. And in the end, when bankers started going to prison and the truth could no longer be masked, the governments have found the same answer: a bail-out. The cost will be a large increase in the national debt; but better that than to allow millions of savers watch their assets vanish into a black hole.

This appears to be a catastrophe without victims, apart from the guilty managers, and their shareholders. There is some budgetary constraint on the interest on the bail-out funds (some \$200 billion — £120 million — in the US, a larger but still unmeasured sum in Japan) is a permanent addition to public spending. But the "printing" of so much money has had no impact on activity, or even on inflation: it simply ensured that savers still owned the funds they thought they held in the first place. Not even the construction industry was much affected: the banks took over the lead role in housing finance. The world was right to shrug off the S&L crisis, and will be right to ignore Japan.

At first sight, the "tigers" have caught exactly the same disease: unwise lending by ill-supervised banks. In fact, however, the similarity is only skin-deep. The differences, which are vital, are shown up under those normally dry book-keeper's headings.



Michel Camdessus, left, of the IMF, and South Korea's Lim Chang Yuel sign a \$55 billion rescue deal

"sources and uses of funds". The S&Ls in the US and the Japanese banks borrowed at home so their liabilities (and their problems) were domestic. The tiger banks borrowed heavily in Tokyo and New York, so their problems are international. Equally, the lending in the US and Japan went mainly to fund financial asset bubbles, or excessive speculative building. Bad luck for domestic investors.

Stock markets have also collapsed in the tiger-economies and there is, too, a large legacy of empty skyscrapers — domestic woes, for the most part. But a great deal also went to ill-judged industrial expansion, above all in electronics, but across a wide range of other industries intended to serve a booming Asian market that is no longer booming.

In short, the tiger economies are

nepotism and outright bribes. This would have been enough to guarantee disaster; but it took a regime of pegged exchange rates to make it international (note that Singapore, which has proved relatively immune, floated its exchange when imported financial inflation first threatened).

With exchange rates apparently immovably fixed to the dollar, or to the yen, it has seemed prudent and risk-free to borrow in New York or Tokyo, where interest rates were lower (much lower in the case of the yen) than those charged domestically. As a result, the tiger banks have found that as their loans began to turn bad, they were facing large short-term foreign liabilities. The major cause of the devaluations of the tiger currencies was not, as Dato Seri Dr Mahatir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, has

ment — Japan (which shipped some \$95 billion in 1996), the US and Germany.

Small wonder that official forecasts for world growth have already been revised down by about 0.5 per cent; on past experience of shocks, this first estimate is much too optimistic. Some US pundits are already comparing the current crisis with the great deflation of the last third of the 19th century, when Australia and South America drove commodity prices down 40 per cent over 30 years, and caused worldwide deflation and near-stagnation.

But that, according to the evidence of David Hale of Zurich Insurance to the US House Banking Committee last month, is too gloomy. A century ago we were on the gold standard, and money supply could not grow in step with output; now, with paper money, we can relate (however it may, as we have just seen in Japan, take a major crisis to remind central bankers of the inflationary duties).

It is the threat to profit margins that is probably the more insidious.

Competition from the tigers made good headlines, but it remained a minor cloud as long as their currencies were strong, and Asian demand was expected to absorb their output. Now, though, it looks a major threat to the West not just in electronics and cars, but in footwear, steel, petrochemicals and textiles. When this provokes a new wave of plant closures and downsizing, the politicians (unlike the central bankers) will be under pressure to do just the wrong thing: trade protection.

President Clinton's defeat over fast-track trade authority could be a small first step: the reminder here is not 19th century stagnation, but the role of the Smoot-Hawley Act (US trade protection) in the great inter-war slump.

Another exaggerated nightmare? Very probably — though a major devaluation by China, already much discussed, would certainly make things worse. But even on its own, the tiger crisis remains a real one. The threat to world growth (and still more, in a stock market context, to profit margins) is surely real enough to justify some reaction in Western stock markets. So far there has been virtually none.

## Pilot error

THEY are meeting today to consider the succession at Airbus Industrie, which must under its own rules lose Jean Pierson as managing director from next March. The MD at Airbus has always been French, the chairman German — don't ask why, but a Brit never gets a look-in.

BUT I hear there has been a problem. Pierson was expected to be replaced by Noel Forgeard, head of Lagardère, the French defence group except that Forgeard is close to Jacques Chirac, the French President. And Chirac has fallen out with Lionel Jospin,

the Prime Minister, over the former's habit of waving through such appointments to his chums. There are a couple of other Frenchmen in the frame but not much fancied. But one solution is being mooted. They could give the chairmanship to Pierson, and the managing directorship to a German.

KEVIN MACKENZIE, celebrated former editor of *The Sun*, once famously sacked his astrology columnist with a memo that started "As you will already know..." Surely some similar presentiment of doom should have tipped off Phillipa Sage, of Pewsey, Wiltshire, banned from trading for seven years after a Bristol industrial tribunal heard that staff at her employment agency had repeatedly not been paid. It supplied clairvoyants, palm readers and other entertainers.



## CITY DIARY

Scholey, a member of the Court of the Bank and the venue the Court Room. The guest list was a Who's Who of banking and politics over the past two decades. Sir Samuel Brittan, Lord and Lady Callaghan, Mr and Mrs Eddie George, Sir Edward Heath and Lord and Lady Howe. Even Jacques de Larosière, paying a welcome visit to these shores, and Helmut Schmidt.

One is a sunset, all "vibrant reds and yellows"; the other an afternoon scene in Morocco, and both are rolled up chez Haslam, awaiting the framer. Very nice, but could they not stay there? Alas, Mrs Haslam will not have them in the house. Says Haslam: "It's not her style of art — she's rather more traditional."

## Bank Roll

A GLITTERING gathering at the Bank on Wednesday night for the 90th birthday celebrations for Lord Roll of Ipsden, chairman of SG Warburg from 1974 to 1983, who still turns up at the office of SBC Warburg Dillon Read most days. The host was Sir David

## Teed off

"A GOOD walk ruined" was Dr Johnson's apt dismissal of golf. But the sport has a great appeal for accountants, being, I suppose, almost as dull as they are, so a couple of magazines have launched an annual tournament for the profession. All you need are a

## Thorny issue

DAVID MICHELS, chief executive of Scottish hotel group Stakis, does not normally dodge a question. But asked yesterday whether he might be interested in buying Thistle Hotels, he came up with some corporate verbiage about looking at everything in pursuit of shareholder value. Sure. A more telling admission, perhaps, from Neil Chisman, Stakis finance director: "There was something in the Scottish press about it earlier this week, but most of our employees thought they were talking about Partick Thistle."

MARTIN WALLER



David Michels declined to say whether he planned to grasp the Thistle

# Low-key bank builds bridges in markets as EMU approaches

The European Investment Bank does not deal in small change. The financing arm of the European Union has just agreed loans totalling €1 billion for a series of UK infrastructure projects, including €600 million alone for Railtrack. Total loans to the UK this year are expected to amount to about 2.5 billion euro (€1.67 billion) out of an annual loan budget of 23 billion euro.

The EIB uses its cast-iron AAA credit rating to raise this money itself on the European capital markets, ensuring that the organisation is classed as the largest non-sovereign borrower in the world.

The EIB has had a hand in just about every big infrastructure project in the UK over the past decade from Canary Wharf to the Channel Tunnel via the Skye toll bridge and the latest Severn bridge. Yet for all its financial clout the EIB, which is owned by the 15 EU member countries, has cut a surprisingly low profile.

Sir Brian Unwin, the bank's British president, has been content to leave the often less than flattering headlines to other EU-backed organisations such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

This backroom role, however, looks set to be cast aside in the final run-up to monetary union. The European Union has charged the Bank, which was established to encourage even development across the Common Market, with providing the single currency.

The bank created a wave of market interest this year when it became the first institution to issue a euro-based bond.

However, it is the EIB's enhanced role in pursuing job creation policies that is most likely to force it out of the shadows. No longer chiefly restricted to funding infrastructure projects, the Bank has been given a mandate to invest in areas as diverse as health and high-tech start-ups.

The genesis of this transformation can be traced to the Amsterdam EU summit in June. A Franco-German split over job creation threatened to scupper the European Monetary Union stability pact — a German-inspired plan designed to set tough fiscal controls on EU member governments. It required the personal intervention of Sir Brian, with a plan for the EIB to develop specific employment-generating projects to help to smooth over some of the political differences between the two countries.

The EIB reported back to the EU Council of Ministers at the Luxembourg summit last month, outlining a series of

schemes that will target the regions most likely to suffer from the structural dislocation that EMU is expected to cause.

The package will take the EIB into virgin territory. It is committing 1.3 billion euro to health, education and urban environment projects, which the EIB believe are both vital to improving local infrastructure and are employment-intensive.

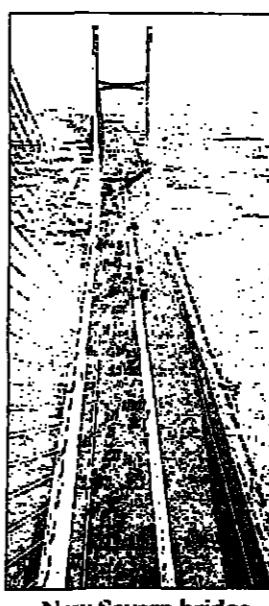
The EIB has further earmarked a billion euro to invest in high-tech start-ups. About 125 million euro has already been dedicated to the bank's first foray into the risky arena of venture capital through a dedicated fund. But the EIB, which is restricted from investing directly in equity, will maintain an arms-length approach towards the fund using its "sister" organisation, the European Investment Fund, to administer the money.

Job creation is, however, only one area in which the EIB expects to support EMU. Its size means that it is a huge and credible player in the capital markets. The bank believes that by beginning to issue some of its bonds in euros it can set the benchmark for future euro issues as well as establishing a marker in the bonds.

"We want to boost confidence in a monetary union and ensure there is a pool of euros in the market from the start," Sir Brian explains. The EIB's first issue earlier this year enjoyed such strong support that the bank increased its size from a billion euro to 1.3 billion euro to meet demand.

A series of "tributary" issues in individual currencies has also been made by the bank. These will be converted into euros once EMU is up and running. Sterling is to date the only notable absence, although Sir Brian makes clear that this is due to technical problems caused by the relatively high level of UK interest rates, rather than doubts over Britain's membership of a single currency.

Indeed the EIB emphasises that the UK's position on EMU is unlikely to be a threat to its relationship with either the City or the Government. Sir Brian believes the jobs package has the strong support of Gordon Brown, who is still keen on persuading the rest of Europe of the virtues of Britain's labour market policies. The EIB will also continue to rely heavily on the City's capital markets and a disproportionate amount of its borrowing is likely to continue to be denominated in sterling. Railtrack's €600 million merely serves to emphasise that the EIB is one European organisation that wants to continue to be a key player in the UK, whether we join EMU or not.



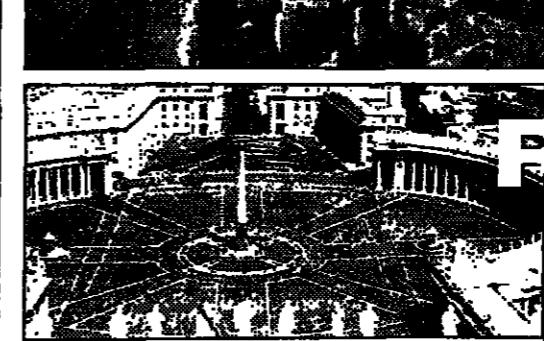
New Severn bridge

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Global Cos	81.87	85.68	- 0.81	Flights New Cap	105.10	127.77	+ 2.27	1.95	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Global Cos	81.87	85.68	- 0.81	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Investment Funds	270.95	247.45	+ 0.65	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
American Cos	29.74	30.70	+ 0.96	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
EU 125 Index	244.76	261.71	+ 1.95	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
European Cos	125.55	126.25	- 0.69	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
European Cos	130.53	147.62	+ 1.49	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
America Pacific	108.50	109.50	- 1.00	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Pacific Cos	117.10	117.21	- 0.11	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Asian Pacific	207.99	222.45	+ 4.46	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Asian Cos	107.01	114.43	+ 7.42	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Advanced Cos	121.10	121.50	- 0.39	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Global Strategy	47.14	50.40	+ 0.27	Flights New Cap	149.50	174.25	+ 2.27	1.95	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
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General Acc	82.63	89.40	+ 12.40	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Smaller Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Income Acc	82.63	89.40	+ 12.40	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
UK Growth Acc	92.30	96.80	+ 4.50	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
European Acc	102.40	112.67	+ 14.27	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
European Acc	102.40	112.67	+ 14.27	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Asian Cos	102.40	112.67	+ 14.27	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Global Cos	102.40	112.67	+ 14.27	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
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Global Cos	102.40	112.67	+ 14.27	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Global Cos	102.40	112.67	+ 14.27	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
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Global Cos	102.40	112.67	+ 14.27	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Large Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Global Cos	102.40	112.67	+ 14.27	Accr Gains Fund	55.70	50.25	- 2.10	0.94	Small Cos	58.32	59.09	+ 0.57	1.22
Global Cos	102												

## Equities close at best of day

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Yield	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>						
550	520	Brewer	570+	+25	14.9	
345	325	Allied Distillers	345+	+15	4.5	12
425	405	Heublein Int'l	425+	+15	4.5	12
245	225	Heublein Inc	245+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp A	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp B	125+	+15	4.5	12
225	215	Heublein Corp C	225+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp D	125+	+15	4.5	12
225	215	Heublein Corp E	225+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp F	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp G	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp H	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp I	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp J	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp K	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp L	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp M	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp N	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp O	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp P	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp Q	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp R	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp S	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp T	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp U	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp V	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp W	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp X	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp Y	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp Z	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp AA	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp BB	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp CC	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp DD	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp EE	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp FF	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp GG	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp HH	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp II	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp III	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp IV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp V	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp VI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp VII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp VIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp IX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp X	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XIV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XVI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XVII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XVIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XVIX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXIV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXVI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXVII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXVIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXIX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXIV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXVI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXVII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXVIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXIX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXIV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXVI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXVII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXVIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXIX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXV	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVI	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXVIII	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXIX	125+	+15	4.5	12
125	115	Heublein Corp XXXXXX	125+	+15	4.5	12

Separate hi-fi products are replying to the challenge presented by the growth in mass-market mini systems. Jez Ford introduces a two-page report

# Searching for the perfect sound

**O**ne warm July evening in 1878, Friedrich's Music Hall in Grand Rapids, Michigan, played host to an unusual musical challenge. Popular cornetist Jules Levy was joined on stage by one Mr Edison, who announced that his amazing phonograph would "talk, sing, crow, whistle, mimic the human voice in any language, and repeat *carte solos*". Mr Edison's phonograph then trounced the cornetist, who packed up his instrument in its box and left the stage.

The experiment neatly defines the very meaning of hi-fi. High fidelity reproduction means what it says — making music sound as real as the moment it was recorded, bringing the performers through time and space into your own home.

Hi-fi went electronic after the war, when London's Tottenham Court Road was piled high with surplus circuits and valves. Flanders and Swann summed up how over-addictive the hobby could become: "With a tone control at a single touch, I can make Caruso sound like 'Hutch'", they sang, adding "but I never did care for music much". The anorak-wearing hi-fi enthusiasts was born amid a mess of technical circuits.

The boom period for high quality audio ran through the Sixties and Seventies, once convenient box 'infinity baffle' speakers had replaced awkward horn designs. It was

then that Japanese companies started producing kit.

"The market was very strong then," remembers Gordon Provan, now chairman of the British Federation of Audio. "The Japanese went for market share." The imports had the advantage of favourable exchange rates and mass production techniques to deliver high fidelity equipment at low prices in near boxes. The anoraks never gave them.

It was the start of a split between mass market and

secondary to shipping costs and other commercial considerations."

The argument of quality versus convenience intensified in the 1980s with the arrival of compact disc. Sold under the wary of perfect sound forever, CDs could outperform vinyl with ease in a low-price system, and brought simplicity and durability to the equation.

Yet in an expensive system, the limitations of CD were obvious from day one — and vinyl albums undeniably car-

'People get the sound they deserve.  
If music is important  
to you, you should take a  
little time to listen.'

'true hi-fi', an almost ideological schism still obvious today from the derision with which mini systems are regarded by manufacturers of 'mix and match' separates. They are made by large companies in the Far East producing in volume," says Ivor Tiefenbrun, boss of Scottish company Linn, and the man almost single-handedly responsible for the source first revolution in 1970s hi-fi that switched the emphasis from quality speakers to quality sources. "Mini systems are made to meet a price point — actual sonic performance is

try more musical information than the digital data on a compact disc.

Battle commenced, and the mass market attractions of CD won the day. Vinyl headed into what many thought was a terminal decline then settled into a niche market where hi-fi LP floggers and young clubland mixmasters find themselves unlikely fellow enthusiasts.

Today's hi-fi market has polarised. On the one side are the mini and micro systems — all-in-one solutions packed with gadgets and flashing lights, sold in high street stores where you will never be

able to check the one thing essential to any music system — how it sounds.

On the other side of the fence are the hi-fi separates: individual CD players, amps and speakers. Ever wondered why these so often look like boring black boxes? Answer: they still follow the original aim of hi-fi. They have been designed to sound as good as possible, and while most manufacturers try to produce a pleasant exterior, every penny spent on cosmetics is a penny lost on sound.

Yet in recent years, mini and micro systems have risen to take more than 70 per cent of the £738 million UK audio market (GfK — Lek-trak figures to August this year). Is the flashy one-purchase system threatening to eclipse the very *raison d'être* of hi-fi?

"No way!" says Julian Richer, whose chain of hi-fi stores champions the superiority of separates. "We are seeing a phenomenal increase in interest in hi-fi separates. Consumers are realising the limitations of their systems."

"People get the sound they deserve," qualifies Tiefenbrun. "Most people don't believe there is a difference. But if music is important to you, you should take a little time to listen."

It is a fair bet that if Mr Edison were to try his challenge in a theatre today, he wouldn't use a mini system.

• Jez Ford is editor of What Hi-Fi magazine



Separates on the shelf: enthusiasts argue that carefully matched components give better value than a mini system

A war is raging between specialist dealers who sell systems piece by piece and the high street chains

## Separates take on the mini brigade

SET out to buy a television and you know more or less what you are letting yourself in for. It will have a screen of a size you specify and a selection from a fairly narrow set of features. There will be quality differences between brands, but the choices will be fairly well defined. Alvin Gold writes.

Systems used for sound reproduction pose a different set of problems. The equipment comes in a bewildering variety of guises, most of which use that magic phrase "high fidelity" to establish a minimum standard.

There are systems constructed from separate hi-fi components, some good, some less so, and there is an enormous variety if packaged mini, midi and micro systems, lifestyle systems and others. Almost all of them claim to represent a close approach to the original sound.

Listen to them carefully, however, and you will find enormous differences. Many of them can be heard for what they are: shoddy monstrosities. A few are different, because they sound credibly like real musicians playing music.

The traditional dividing line lies between component-based hi-fi and one-make packaged systems, but it has become blurred



Hated by purists, loved by the public. Kenwood mini systems start at £329.95

presence and clarity even when the volume is set low.

Buying a quality hi-fi system need not cost a fortune — you can buy a genuinely capable system

for about the price of a decent television — but it is necessarily more involved. A good dealer will establish your needs and provide advice, properly informed demonstrations and a full back-up service that may involve installing the system and exchanging components if they do not suit the customer's home. Problems of this kind often only appear after the equipment has been installed. This back-up can go well beyond the minimum requirements of consumer legislation.

Approach most high street electrical outlets for audio equipment and you are likely to be given a different story. Why bother with hi-fi separates when you can buy a single make system with everything you could possibly need? The idea is seductive.

The advantages are real, but there are problems, one of which is that many such systems are quite primitive internally and

paradoxically are often built with poorly matched internal components.

Another is that such systems are dead-end purchases. A component system can be upgraded over the years and new technology incorporated as opportunities arise. Packaged systems rarely provide this flexibility. By contrast, Arcam, the UK's biggest maker of component high fidelity, is one of a number of producers whose CD players and other components can be upgraded.

There is a halfway house, identified originally by Denon a few years ago, which is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the systems market. These are systems based on what are, in effect, stylized mini-sized components, to which new ones can be added later.

There are also some exotically designed packaged systems with high-performance standards. The bottom line is that if you want quality you can find it in almost any form and a good dealer can steer you around the obstacles. BADA (the British Audio Dealers Association) has about 130 members nationwide who subscribe to a strict code of practice.

• BADA Telephone 0171-226 4044. E-mail BADA@compuserve.com.

## It can be simple...

Alvin Gold outlines the important points to remember when buying components

TEN things you should know when buying hi-fi separates.

Source components

- If you are counting pennies, consider economising by reducing the number of source components. Do you really need a CD player, radio, cassette deck, MiniDisc recorder and a turntable?
- Consider simpler components: single cassette decks usually outperform twins and multidisc players generally contribute more to complexity than musical pleasure.
- Quality sound from radio is the prerogative of the FM band, and quality, hiss-free stereo FM depends on good, preferably roof-mounted aerials.
- Power output is often less important than manufacturers would have you believe. Personal tastes, the nature of your room and the sensitivity of the speakers count here, but 50-70 watts per channel is a good starting point for lifelike impact in most rooms.
- Don't be put off by lack of facilities. Tone controls, for example, are rarely found on high-quality amplifiers, but almost al-

ways included with budget gear. Draw your own conclusions.

Loudspeakers

- Bigger is not always better. Many simple, compact speakers sound better than large impressive-looking free standers.
- Avoid placing speakers behind the furniture as it will selectively absorb the high frequencies, smothering detail.
- Loudspeakers need proper support to perform at their best. Use quality pedestal stands for compact speakers (cost £30 a pair) rather than shelves. Small blobs of Blu-Tack between speakers and stands work wonders. Also, use dedicated speaker cables rather than bellwire or mains cable.
- Large speakers are designed to be free standing, but usually sound best with carpet-piercing spikes, which won't damage carpets.
- If you really, really want deep bass, but can't accommodate large loudspeakers, consider using compact units with an active subwoofer (a specialised bass-only loudspeaker), which can often be hidden out of sight behind furniture without compromising performance.

## The one essential for any great system

**WHAT HI-FI?**



No jargon.  
No worries. Just music.

**WHAT HI-FI?**  
sound advice

## Buyer beware

Better watch out for the swindlers when shopping for a stereo

HAVE you been accosted on a garage forecourt with studio loudspeakers for sale, cheap? This is a popular scam and the speakers involved are invariably poorly built, with shabby enclosures and components, sometimes missing tweeters and crossovers.

As with confidence tricks in many other walks of life, there is no comeback.

Some scams are harder to spot, and therefore more pernicious, and are to be found even in ostensibly legitimate areas.

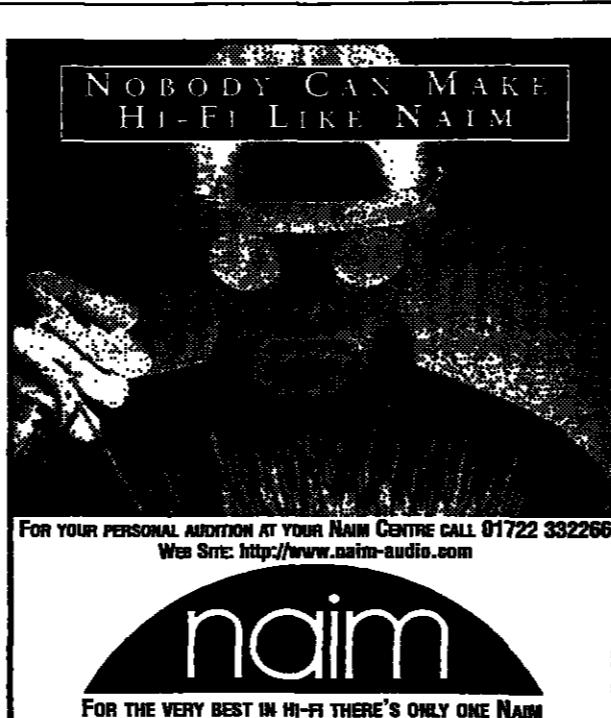
The most infamous is the so-called "mug's eyeful".

which refers to packaged midi systems with unnecessary controls by the bucketload, and outside, underendowed multidriver loudspeakers.

A large number of unreliable hi-fi components and systems subscribe to similar values and far too many dealers are happy to pursue this lowest common denominator "male jewellery" approach.

With high fidelity, as with many other things in life, quality should always be the watchword.

ALVIN GOLD



## Listen to this!

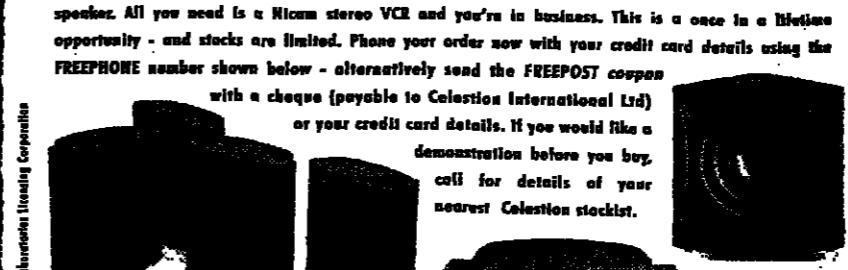
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**CELESTION**

Jez Ford on  
how new  
technology will  
transform our  
listening and  
viewing habits

**F**or every new audio innovation you see on *Tomorrow's World* that makes it into your home, there are dozens more that bite the dust between drawing board and living room.

Such new technologies have two faces — one smiling with the promise of new toys and better performance, the other showing worry lines at the thought of your current equipment becoming defunct, and the cost of replacing it. Many people still resent the sudden redundancy of their LP collections with the arrival of the CD.

But this is an exciting time for hi-fi, with a wealth of new ideas that promise improvements in performance plus the all-important back compatibility — new concepts that have been designed to sit happily with the old.

Take compact discs. There are two plans to improve their capability: the Digital Versatile Disc, and the Super Audio CD. The first, DVD, is a disc that looks just like a CD but contains video as well as audio. One disc can carry a whole movie with far better picture quality than your video recorder can offer, and digital surround sound. It is already out in the US and Japan and the first European players should be properly launched here in the spring. DVD players can also play normal CDs, and when DVDs eventually become recordable, you will be able to have a single box for all your music and movie needs.

The plans for Super Audio CD were announced in Japan just two weeks ago by the inventors of the original CD system, Philips and Sony. It uses a double-layer compact disc that plays normally in a standard CD player, but can produce vastly improved quality in the planned SACD players. Whether the SACD gets into a turf war with the audio capabilities of DVD will depend on how the companies involved can work together.

It's not just the software end



MiniDisc, Digital Versatile Disc, Super Audio CD and flat components are all set to revolutionise hi-fi in the UK

## The future is richer, fuller — and flatter

of things that is getting a facelift. NXT, a company based in Cambridge, is leading the world with a new way of designing loudspeakers so that they are virtually flat. No more intrusive boxes cluttering up your lounge — NXT's design can hang on the wall disguised as paintings, or even be made to form part of the wall itself. "The future of audio and video is flat," says Farad Azima, NXT's chief executive.

"Whether it's the TV and speakers at home or your computer in the office."

The first audio "flatties" should be available in the spring, and are likely to become a favourite in the growing market for high-tech multi-room installation. You tell a consultant where you want music and home cinema and, how much you want to pay, and they deliver a total

home solution. Robert Taussig is a London dealer who belongs to CEDIA, a network of skilled installers. "It's not so much that it is new," he explains. "Rather that people are becoming more aware of what can be achieved."

The cheapest four-room installation would be about £5,000, he says, though consultations are free.

What of the humble cassette? There have been various attempts to replace its mediocre hi-fi performance with a digital recording format, but so far, none of them has quite kicked it out of play. Its worldwide availability and standard appearance in car systems is likely to ensure its survival for a good few years to come.

Of its challengers, Sony's MiniDisc looks the brightest hope, a rewritable optical disc

that has taken Japan by storm and is making significant waves here. It is small enough for portability and extremely versatile — you can erase and reuse a whole disc or just individual tracks, rearranging songs and even adding text as digital information.

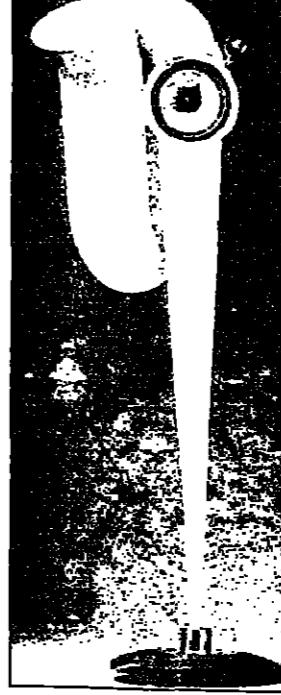
After the flop of its Digital Compact Cassette, Philips is fighting back with recordable CD, its new £500 CDR-870 recorder looking quite an attractive option given the price of £3 for blank CD-Rs. There is an undeniable thrill to making your own CDs, and, of course, the digital copies are perfect.

Any glimpse into the future of hi-fi cannot ignore the Internet. A wealth of radio stations already broadcast live on the Net, though in very limited quality at present. Everything from Virgin Radio to Kathmandu FM is available 24 hours a day anywhere in the world, though of course you will be paying local telephone on-line call charges while you listen, making it a rather expensive way to tune in to Chris Evans in the morning.

Last month, Sharp announced production of a mini system that connects to your PC and can download music from the Net direct to MiniDisc.

Turntables are still popular and second hand vinyl is superb value at present. The quality is often amazing. Mini condition records can be had for a few pounds.

Replay is important, though, and turntables should be made to last. They look extremely simple but all the work is in the engineering of the bearings and motor.



B&W's Emphasis speaker, at £6,495, uses a horn shape to absorb rearward-travelling sound waves

Up to £500 the deck to beat is the Rega 2 or 3 at £244 or £274. A similar approach to engineering with better-grade components comes from Nottinghamshire Acoustic, whose Interspace, at £510, rivals decks at more than twice its price. The motor is so weak that you have to give the platter a push by hand to get it started, but that means the motor's vibrational effect on the heavy platter is reduced to a minimum.

It's a gorgeous piece of engineering and benefits from being used with higher grade amp and speakers.

For bankers and buffs Michel Engineering's Orbe is a model of precision engineering. The price at £1,995 for the deck alone obviously makes this an enthusiast's quarry, but it is so good to listen to, you won't want to go to work.

One of the best CD players on the market under £500 is Rega's Planar at £398. It is a top loading player and designed so that any faulty part could easily be replaced. Audio Note's CD2 at £990 gives extraordinary sound quality that you can listen to for hours on end without feeling tired. At the top of the range, at £4,250, is the Digital Analogue Company Ultimate.

Arcam's Alpha 8 £360 50W amplifier is a superb design delivering detail and drive with a gorgeously solid feel to the sound, but at £799 Exposure's Super XV amp puts the icing on the cake, giving that much extra base and treble performance to bring music into sharper relief. Of silly-money amps, Krell's KAV300i is the hot hatchback.

Competition in the speaker market is fierce. I would recommend the Acoustic Energy AE120 at £500. At £580, Castle's Severn 2 award-winning speaker is as dependable as the Yorkshires who make it.

At £1,520, Audio Note's type E/D loudspeakers have 95dB/W/M sensitivity which has you gasping at the level of detail they can relay. They are designed as matched pairs for perfect performance in stereo.

Lottery winners, however, may prefer a pair of hand-crafted B&W speakers. The ingenious Emphasis, at a mere £6,495 the pair, uses a horn shape to absorb sound. But better known is the top-of-the-range Nautilus, a snip at £35,000 for two. (B&W: 01903 750750.)

## For cheapskates and big spenders

Putting a system together for Christmas?

Dan Houston has advice to suit all pockets

**E**xcellence in hi-fi does not have to cost the earth. As long as the components do not actually add anything nasty to the sound quality of your music collection you can get away with surprisingly little outlay.

The ultimate Audio Cheapskate system, based on CD-player, amplifier and speakers, could cost as little as £380. Start with Philips' 721 CD-player, still an excellent buy at £130 after two years on the market, with a surprisingly clear sound.

To this add the Cambridge Audio AJ Mark MK III SE amplifier, which redefines value for money at £120. The amp is rated at 30 watts but still delivers plenty of power to the right loudspeakers and will even drive sound well in large-ish rooms without a hint of distortion. Designed in the UK, and built in China, it has four inputs, so you can have that many sources. But it does have an optional phone stage for hooking up a record player.

The speakers that sound excellent with this are JPW's MLS10s, at £130. They are just 33cm high, but you wouldn't know it when this system is kicking out some rock'n'roll or relaying an orchestra. The West Country firm makes all its products locally, using HM Prisons to do some of the cabinet making. At 89dB/W/m they are very sensitive, allowing more detail through and giving a fuller sound. Site them slightly away from a wall — stands are best, or wall brackets.

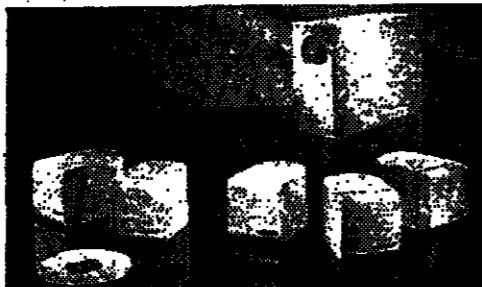
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amazing compared to a one-box mini system for the same price. If any high street retailer tells you to buy a mini system for sound quality they are talking

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You want to know what has been the least celebrated anniversary of 1997? All right, suit yourself. But I have 800,000 sheets of virgin white paper to despoil, so I shall tell you anyway. Exactly 400 years ago in Florence a group of bored aristocrats hit upon a form of entertainment so bizarre and extravagant that it was virtually doomed to catch on in the crazy world we call showbiz. Yes, they invented opera. And four centuries later, we are still counting the cost. Or, in the case of Covent Garden, miscounting the cost.

It was all a big mistake. Our Florentine friends, being Renaissance men, revered classical Greek culture and at that time it was believed that Greek tragedy had been sung throughout. Nonsense, as we now know. Nevertheless, the Florentines felt that what was good enough for Euripides should be good enough for them. So in 1597 or 1598 (depending on which history book you read) a man called Peri wrote a "sung play"

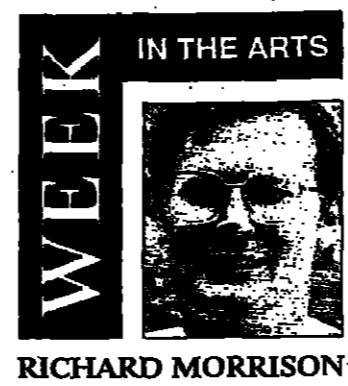
## After 400 years, time for new tunes?

called *Dafne* — the first opera. We don't know how it sounded; the music is lost. But we do know that the heroine turned into a tree. Not only the first opera, then, but also the first daft opera plot.

Such music that has survived from early operas is very austere: the Florentines, mostly amateurs, were reacting against the polished polyphony of professionals like Palestrina and Byrd (ie, composers of genius) who, as they saw it, were obscuring the words.

Within ten years, however,

a real composer, Claudio Monteverdi, gave opera its first masterpiece, *Ofeo*. Soon opera was the executive toy of choice for despots across Europe. Every prince had to have one. A giant leap for mankind? Well, several ducal courts went broke, and little boys began to be castrated in the cause of *bel canto*. Mixed blessings, you might say.



RICHARD MORRISON

tions, nobody has mentioned the most obvious vacuum in modern operatic life. Where are the composers who write operas that people want to hear?

Consider this. A generation ago, opera-lovers rushed with genuine excitement to hear Britten's latest *magnum opus*. Their parents would have felt the same about Strauss. A generation earlier, the new Puccini had them queuing round the block. And a few years earlier it was jackpot time, with Verdi, Wagner and a host of lesser names turning out durable hits by the month.

You get my drift. For its first 350 years opera was composer-driven. It might have been financed by kings, but they were in thrall to genius. Opera was sustained by a creative imperative. But in the past 50 years? Britten, Stravinsky and Prokofiev have produced works

worth hearing twice, but they are dead and precious little else has entered the repertoire. Opera today is not composer-driven, but institution-led. The imperative is not musical creation but job preservation.

This, this endless recycling of a tiny repertoire — no more than three dozen works regularly do the rounds — is ingenuously disguised by eye-popping interpretations. But it's museum culture for all that. And when genuinely popular operatic works do emerge, mostly from America, they never seem to reach Britain's main opera houses.

Think, for example, of John Adams's brilliant *Nixon in China* or John Corigliano's ingenious *The Ghost of Versailles*. It's as if our opera chiefs are scared of being labelled as vulgarians. If Verdi popped up on

the doorstep of Covent Garden tomorrow with the freshly scrawled score of *Rigoletto* under his arm, he would be told to try his luck with Cameron Mackintosh.

Of course the overheads of grand opera are so enormous that companies can't afford to gamble often on pieces unknown to the public. And the rise of film, television, pop music and the musical has given composers with melodic flair far more lucrative markets for their talents.

But it is also possible that opera has reached the end of its natural life as an art form. The world has changed a bit in 400 years, but opera is still trapped in the bizarre conventions inaugurated by Peri when he turned *Dafne* into a tree for the entertainment of Florentine wits. Before Sir Richard Eyre and his opera-committee get down to the important business of rearranging the deckchairs in the *Crush Bar*, they should ponder that sombre thought. Are we spending millions to sustain an art form that has nothing new to say?

## Today the world, tomorrow try harder

**MUSIC:** Alan Jackson brings us up to speed with the latest doings of flat-out superstar Celine Dion

Teddington at teatime. The schools of the leafy London suburb decent and, at every traffic light, mothers in large cars wait to steer their children home through the quickly advancing gloaming. Meanwhile, any glance to the left or right finds the driver staring through lighted windows into scenes of casual domesticity: the air pair preparing tea for her young charges, for example, or the lone male waiting for a kettle to boil and the microwave to ping.

And nearby, within a B&Q-styled dressing room at the complex of Thames TV, the world's bestselling recording artist of the past two years takes a rehearsal break. She turns off the television set and asks for help in killing the relentless, larynx-threatening central heating.

"I'm totally content at this point in my life," says Celine Dion, increasingly confident in her second language. Then, momentarily thrown by the need for the correct idiomatic phrase, she falters. Happy in my own skin, I suggest. "Oui, exactement!" comes the reply. "Je me sens très bien dans ma peau."

As well she might. The former child star from Montreal, who began recording in her native French at the age of

12, is currently on top of the showbusiness world. "although it is important to stress that I am completely grounded," she interjects. "My feet are not at all in the air."

Her fourth album, 1995's *Falling Into You*, has sold an astonishing 25 million copies, a tenth of them in the UK alone. But although it's successor, *Let's Talk About Love*, is at or near the top of charts around the world, Dion is not inclined to sit back and enjoy the achievement. Nothing is being left to chance.

Four days into the first leg of her latest British tour itinerary, the 29-year-old star has already performed her new single, *The Reason*, on a clutch of the week's most-watched television shows — *The National Lottery*, *The Smash Hits Awards* and *Talking Telephone Numbers* — and has topped the bill at this year's Royal Variety Show, to

**I'm just happy that people are offering me the best of themselves**

be broadcast by ITV this Sunday from 8.30pm.

Now she is about to record not one but two guest slots for another ratings-magnet, *Des O'Connor Tonight*. That the unwritten rules of light entertainment demand a different

dress for each show is evidenced by the slip of silver lame and the slither of claret-coloured velvet currently awaiting occupation at the other end of the room.

This current earnestness to share a little of her star-dust must amuse her, I suggest. After all, when we first met in 1991, with Dion struggling to deploy her newly learnt second language in promotion of her very first English LP, few within the British media were inclined to give her the time of day: indeed, it is whispered elsewhere that, as recently as 1994, O'Connor's bookers rejected her as a guest. But Dion is a

good-natured pragmatist. "It's the same as with writers," she says. "On the way up, you struggle to get strong material. Once you've had an album sell 25 million though, it's like, 'Hey, I think I'll give her my new song!'

"But I'm not cynical. I'm just happy that people are offering me the best of themselves."

Ideally, she and her husband-manager René Angelil had hoped to be preparing for parenthood this year, not the release of another album. But biology shows no respect for star status and, when Dion did not fall pregnant on cue, the couple let it be known they might be starting the recording process again. "We thought we'd just sit back and see what came in and, well ..." (she mimics being buried under an avalanche).

Her dueting partners on *Let's Talk About Love* are Barbra Streisand and Luciano Pavarotti. The Bee Gees and Bryan Adams are among those who have contributed tracks. Even Carole King — charmed by Dion's recent recording of her composition (*You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman*) — ventured out of semi-retirement to pen and sing backing vocals on *The Reason*. As if that were not enough, the song also represents Sir George Martin's swansong in the recording studio.

M any critics have found the resulting musical mix too rich for their tastes, but there can be no faulting an awesome voice and increasingly mature delivery. Back in 1991, her first English-language producer, Christopher Neil, compared her talent to Streisand's, and predicted that Dion would enjoy a career of similar longevity. Now, with the two voices blending seamlessly on the current hit *Tell Him*, it is as if even the great diva herself is acknowledging a shared lineage.

"I do kind of feel I have been handed the baton," Dion says.

"That puts the pressure firmly in my camp, and right now I'm running hard. I don't want to run forever, though. I'm looking one day to hand it on again. These are great times for me, but I am not a selfish person. I believe in giving something back to show gratitude for my success."

She says she would like to stop releasing records while still at the top, perform only occasionally, and diversely. She is currently preparing to record a new French-language LP, and will undertake a world tour next year. After it, her best-case scenario would involve having a first child, then returning to the English-speaking market not as a singer, but an actress — one of two movie options currently under consideration is a biopic of Edith Piaf. "But if I accept one or the other, it will

millions of words written about this week's opera crisis have included demands for fatter subsidies, brighter managers, cheaper tickets, richer patrons, tighter accountants and quicker resigna-

tions.

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&lt;p

# Charity ends at homicidal

Given its ambiguous lyrics and patchy performances, the fundraising single *Perfect Day* could have been worse

I have only heard the sound once before. It was in a field in Staffordshire, on a rather drizzly day. The family had parked up in a country lay-by, and were busy rekindling the ongoing war of who took precedence over the cup on the Thermos flask, while the dog moaned around the field looking for comska to roll in.

The bull was posing in a far-distant corner — chest flung forward, dribble oozing from its chin, snoring incoherently. The dog, being a game old bird, decided to have a pop and started cantering towards the bull. Like a gary roasting dinner, the bull bolted for a neighbouring field, attempting to jump a barbed-wire fence on the way. Unfortunately, the apex of the leap did not enable the bull fully to clear the fence, and his hump-parts snagged on a barb. The sound was quite astonishing.

Brian Blessed shouting times Miss Piggy going "H-YAH!", to the power of a jugger-nut accidentally going from fourth to first gear at 80 miles an hour.

So whenever I listen to *Perfect Day* and hear Heather Small from M People bellowing "You're going to rrrreeeeeap jhuuuuwust whaaaaat yow sooo-wo-wo-arg, yeah!", I'm immediately transported back to that drizzly day. It's the sound of something in unimaginable pain — most probably the small, sensitive hairs in the listener's inner ear — and the idea that Peugeot, the Labour Party and the BBC would willingly choose this aural Hiroshima as "their voice" never ceases to astound me.

But then, the entirety of the *Perfect Day* single — still at No 1 — is pretty astounding. The fact that it's for charity seems to have dulled critical incisors, and made us view it through the crazy psychedelic glasses of cockle-warmed fools. Charity does do odd things to our rationale as Ben

Elton once rightly pointed out, had Hitler invaded Poland dressed in a chicken costume for Help The Aged, we'd have given him ten minutes plugging-time on *TFI Friday* and an OBE.

The original *Perfect Day* is a

thing of simple grandeur — Lou Reed's smudgy, HB-pen-

cil voice sketches the melody with deft, graceful lines. The

Kirsty MacColl/Evan Dando

version from 1995 (you can

find it on *Galore — The Best Of Kirsty MacColl*) is equally

lovely — hungover, ruined,

voices hushed and regretful.

As Lou, Kirsty and Evan

realised, *Perfect Day* is too



CAITLIN MORAN

poised and delicate to emoto-

hysterically — any vocal "passion" is akin to dressing Audrey Hepburn in Versace. *Perfect Day* can't quite take the weight of a man with a shaved eyebrow pretending to shoot us with his fingers (Huey from *Fun Lovin' Criminals*); a woman wearing ruched curtains doing it opera-style (Lesley Garrett); or Heather Small even sighting in its proximity.

Aside from the performances — which aren't all bad: Bonzo, Evan Dando and Emmy-Lou Harris got the right vibe — there's the concept of the whole thing to wrestle with. Consider for a moment: stars from all over the world sing a paean to smack, to help crack-babies in Liverpool. This is the sort of thing the Zeus of satire, Chris Morris, used to do on *The Day Today* and *Brass Eye* — but

it's for charity. Let's just hope that Heather Small doesn't push it, and try to invade Poland for Christmas.

**T**he oddest thing, though, is that — given that you are armed with a "mute" button for Heather Small's appearances — *Perfect Day* makes a wonderful advert. If the BBC screened it, and immediately afterwards announced they were bumping the licence fee up to £200, most people would shrug, and say: "Well, you go! Share McGowan out of the pub for ten minutes. Respect. Do you take Switch? Would a tip be appropriate?" The mistake was thinking that adverts can stand up as artistic works. Jack Dee's dancing penguins are wonderful for 30 seconds, but would make an appalling feature-length movie; and *Oxo Family — The Sit-Com*, as all who have watched *24 Children* are aware, makes for a vomitous half-hour.

Still, it is for charity. Let's just hope that Heather Small doesn't push it, and try to invade Poland for Christmas.

now it's actually happening in the real, sentient, walking and breathing world. How much more Post-Modern can we get before the Western world collapses into rampant silliness? Imagine if Noel Gallagher, Pavarotti, Enya, and Lamp from Bang Bang Machine did a cover of Slade's *Look What You Done In aid of the Dyslexia Foundation*.

Of course, heroin songs always have that handy ambiguity in them — smack is idealised as a nurturing woman/mother figure, as in The La's *There She Goes*, or as a return to the womb in *Heart-Shaped Box* by Nirvana. This imagery has allowed heroin to be romanticised in popular music like no other illegal activity. You can't imagine the Stranglers writing another *Golden Brown* — which I thought until recently was about toast — about tax evasion; or the Velvet Underground-themed album around cock-fighting.

Lou Reed's smudgy voice made the original *Perfect Day* a thing of beauty — then along came an all-star cast to spoil it. No, *Small isn't beautiful*

and meander back to the microphone. For diversion he would rattle his tambourine before tossing it nonchalantly into the mosh-pit. Meanwhile, Noel kept his head down for the most part and played his guitar.

*Be Here Now* was an ill-judged opening gambit. A rousing *Stand by Me* was followed by somewhat perfunctory renditions of *Supsersonic* and *Some Might Say*, which deserve so much better. *Don't Look Back in Anger*, though, is a stadium anthem waiting to happen and didn't disappoint. But *Wonderwall*, after only two years already a timeless standard, was anonymous, buried by Noel's electric guitar, which also outstayed its welcome on the self-consciously epic *It's Getting Better (Man!!)* and the finale *Champagne Supernova*.

So, just another day at the office for Oasis? I'm afraid so. Shame.

NICK KELLY

way they saw it too. Never mind seizing the moment, *Oasis* looked as if they were contemplating the Christmas TV schedule or perhaps weighing up Manchester City's chances of avoiding the drop.

The most drama to be had in the evening was the band's entrance. A brilliant piece of theatre, they arrived on stage from the door of a giant red telephone box, having been ushered in by an exotically dressed ringmaster sporting a top hat and tails.

There were other elaborate stage props, all references to the sleeve artwork of the new album: a gigantic clock, a rotating globe, a section of a Rolls-Royce in front of the drumkit, a parking meter. Liam, with that endearingly loutish swagger, had no end of fun. His party trick for the evening was to climb up on the clock ledge, out-stare the audience,

and meander back to the microphone. For diversion he would rattle his tambourine before tossing it nonchalantly into the mosh-pit. Meanwhile, Noel kept his head down for the most part and played his guitar.

*Be Here Now* was an ill-judged opening gambit. A rousing *Stand by Me* was followed by somewhat perfunctory renditions of *Supsersonic* and *Some Might Say*, which deserve so much better. *Don't Look Back in Anger*, though, is a stadium anthem waiting to happen and didn't disappoint. But *Wonderwall*, after only two years already a timeless standard, was anonymous, buried by Noel's electric guitar, which also outstayed its welcome on the self-consciously epic *It's Getting Better (Man!!)* and the finale *Champagne Supernova*.

So, just another day at the office for Oasis? I'm afraid so. Shame.

NICK KELLY

## Keith's natty dread

### NEW ALBUMS

thoroughly and plausibly steeped in ethnic folklore. While the Stones continue to build their own *Bridges to Babylon*, here is a fascinating detour from the beaten track.

**YES**

*Open Your Eyes*

(Eagle Records EAGCD013 £18.49)

**TORCHBEARERS** for a curiously discredited strand of 1970s progressive rock. Yes have long suffered from an inability to keep abreast of developments, so much so that even such contemporaries as Genesis and King Crimson now seem forward-looking by comparison.

**OPEN YOUR EYES** combines elements of the "classic" Yes sound — lots of complex vocal harmonies led by Jon Anderson's grating castrato — with

the heavier, more populist approach that landed them a handful of hits such as *Owner of a Lonely Heart* in the 1980s. It is so timewarped it verges on the surreal.

**WITH ANDERSON, STEVE HOWE, CHRIS SQUIRE AND ALAN WHITE** on board it is certainly one of the more authentic line-ups that Yes have fielded in recent years, and the album is, for the most part, a disciplined effort. A shame, though, that they had to end it with *The Solution*, which drifts in and out of the speakers like a bad dream for 23 stricken minutes.

**BRYAN ADAMS**

*Unplugged* (A&M 540 631 £14.49)

**BABYFACE**

*MTV Unplugged NYC 1997*

(Epic 499069 £13.99)

**THE** days when MTV's *Unplugged* sessions provided a relaxed, impromptu setting for artists such as Pearl Jam

and Aerosmith to recast their songs in an acoustic vein are long gone. These latest instalments are both major, set-piece performances featuring new arrangements of (mostly) old songs that are, in some cases, more ornate than the original recordings.

**ADAMS** brings in an orchestra with disastrous results on *Is Til I Die*. But even so, you feel that most of his songs are strong enough to withstand anything up to and including an oompah-band treatment.

He turns *I Think About You* into an appealing hillbilly stomp and adds touches of mandolin and low whistle to otherwise familiar-sounding epics including *Cuts Like a Knife* and *Heaven*.

**THE FIRST SOUND** on Babyface's album is an electric guitar played by Eric Clapton, who stylishly waves two fingers in the face of the *Unplugged* ethos with his slick, bluesy chops on *Change the World* and *Talk To Me*. From there the album quickly turns into a "special guest" love-in with a succession of over-emotional cameos from Stevie Wonder (*Gone Too Soon*, *How Long*, *Shanice*), Wilson (*Breathe Again*) and others.

Although these collections do boast a somewhat greater sense of occasion than an ordinary live album, they confirm the impression that *Unplugged* is now more of a brand name than a sound.

DAVID SINCLAIR

### TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (2) *Spaceworld* ...

2 (1) *Let's Talk About Love* ...

3 (3) *Utopia Hymns* ...

4 (2) *Best of Greatest Hits* ...

5 (4) *Backstreet's Back* ...

6 (3) *All Saints* ...

7 (24) *All Saints* ...

8 (6) *Paint the Sky with Stars* ...

9 (5) *Like You Do* ...

10 (9) *Left of the Middle* ...

Spice Girls (Virgin)

Celine Dion (Epic)

Wham! (Epic)

Eternal (EMI)

Backstreet Boys (Five)

All Saints (London)

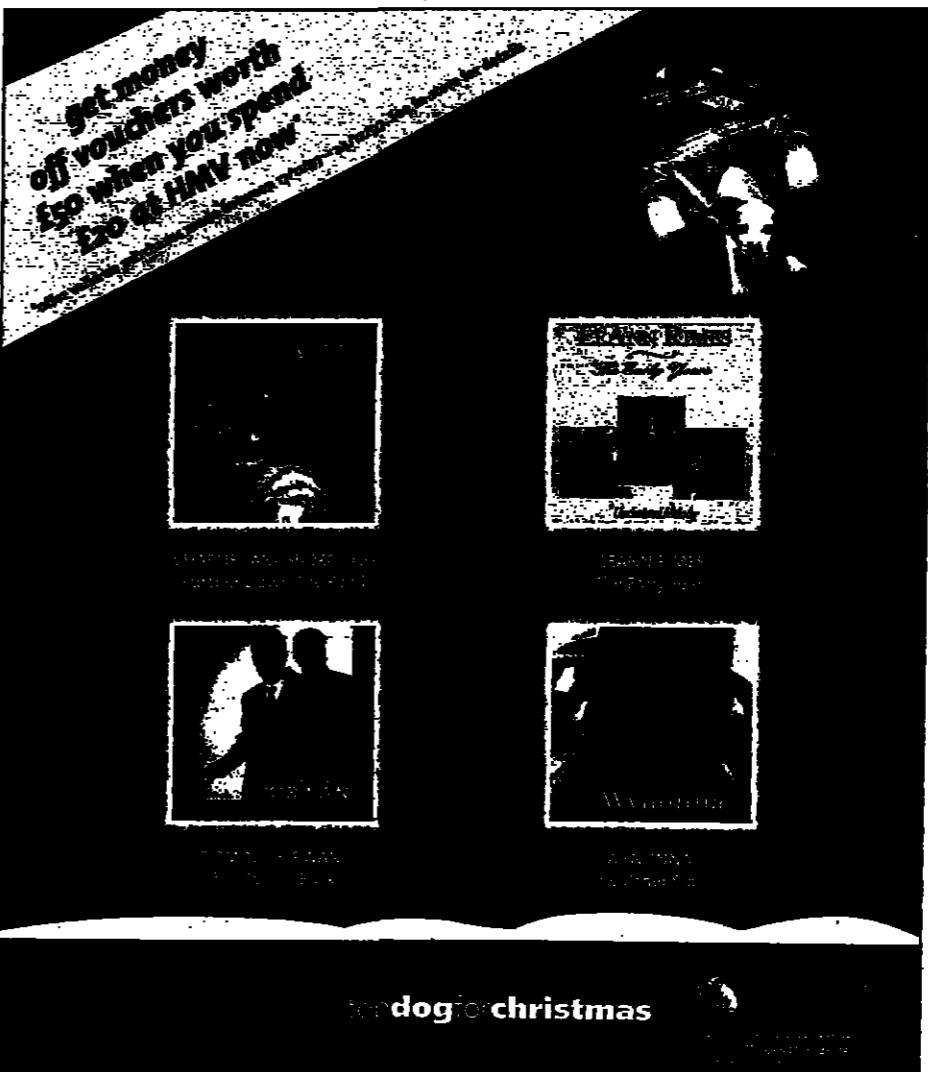
Enya (WEA)

Lightning Seeds (Epic)

Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)

Copyright CIN

Figure in brackets denotes last week's position



dogtorchristmas

### THE SINGLE



#### Only If...

A brand new song, as performed at the Royal Variety Performance. CD Single includes *Ode To Joy*, Enya's Gothic version of *Silence Night*.

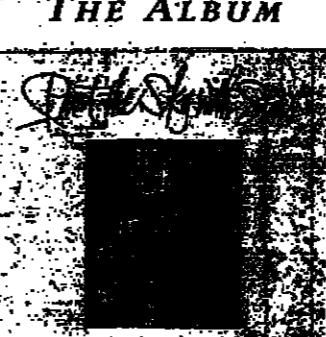
### THE BOX SET



#### A Box Of Dreams

This luxury 3 CD box set contains Enya's catalogue presented in a new way. The CDs have been chosen to suit your mood. *OCEANS* contains the singles & lighter pieces. *CLOUDS* is soothing piano pieces while *STARS* explores the more esoteric Enya. Includes three new songs and a beautiful 32 page art paper booklet, containing photographs, illustrations and calligraphy.

### THE ALBUM



#### Paint The Sky With Stars

Enya's best loved songs, together for the first time. Includes *Galaxy Flower*, *Caribbean Blue*, *Anywhere Is* and two new songs, including *Only If...*

DONALD COOPER

## LONDON

**BARBICAN HIGHLIGHTS:** Tonight's concert (8pm) offers British audiences the only opportunity this year to sample the art of the Norwegian soprano between the outstanding Norwegian soprano Jon Garbarek and the distinguished medieval vocalists, the Huelgas Ensemble. On Sunday (7.30pm) the piano duo of Leonidas Stavridis and Chang displays her remarkable musical maturity in a recital featuring works by Mozart, Strauss and Chopin.

**THE CASTLE SPECTRE:** M. G. "Mark" Lewis's most popular play has won hearts, abdicated heroes rescued from ghosts "extremely lovable, dangerously mad," said The Times. Director Ted Craig directs Phil Willmott's association.

**WINEHOUSE, DINGWELL:** Matthew Francis adapts and directs the Dickens tale for his last production as artistic director. Darren Mattocks plays David Copperfield, while John Cullum as Mr Micawber, Croms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Previews from tonight; Thurs. 7.45pm, Fri. 8pm, Sat. 8pm, Sun. (Dec 7 and Jan 4), 8pm.

**DAVID COPPERFIELD:** Matthew Francis adapts and directs the Dickens tale for his last production as artistic director. Darren Mattocks plays David Copperfield, while John Cullum as Mr Micawber, Croms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Previews from tonight; Thurs. 7.45pm, Fri. 8pm, Sat. 8pm, Sun. (Dec 7 and Jan 4), 8pm.

**MORE FAIRY TALES:** A small group of stories by the same team of Carol Ann Duffy and Tim Supple who created the excellent 1994 show. Probably just as much fun, maybe more. Wed. 7.30pm, Fri. 8pm, Sat. 8pm, Sun. (Jan 11, 18), 8pm.

**LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA:** Bernard Haitink makes a

## WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Martin Hargre

welcome visit to the South Bank to conduct the LPO in a programme of Britten's *Les Illuminations* and Meyer's *Fourth Symphony*. With the soprano Jennifer Larmore, the tenor Mark Padmore, the bass-baritone Simon O'Neill and the pianist Stephen Hough. Sat. 8pm, Sun. (0171-982 4242), Sunday, 7.30pm.

## ELSEWHERE

**ALDEBURGH:** Premier here of the American director Francesco Zampella's staging for the Royal Opera of Britain's first music-theatre work, *Pauw*. Buryton Richard Heale conducts

the South Bank, South Bank (0171-212 3333).

A pre-Christmas treat is also on offer for drama lovers with the opening night of Peter Wright's dancing theatre production of *The Winter's Tale*, Royal Ballet at the National, set to Tchaikovsky's glorious score.

**HOLLYWOOD:** An evening of great operatic song can be savoured as glamourous opera diva Lesley Garrett gives a concert performance with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in an extensive programme which includes works by Mozart, Schubert and Lehár.

Wednesday, 8pm, Bournemouth Hall, Bournemouth (01202 456459). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

## LONDON GALLERIES

**SCOTTISH MUSEUM:** Error (0171-982 6511), British Music Centre (0171-323 8255), Hayward: *The Modern Self* (0171-528 3144).

**NATIONAL PORTRAIT:** Sir Harry Lauder (0171-323 8255), Royal Academy of Arts, Foyer Painting (0171-429 7438), Tate: *The Times* Prize 1997 Exhibition (0171-887 8000).

**A BOURNEMOUTH concert for diva Lesley Garrett:**

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

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THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

## POSTS

University  
of Durham

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## Senior Lecturer in Human Resource Management

£28,380 - £33,202

You will have an outstanding record of research within the behavioural sciences and will ideally be both academically and professionally qualified within this broad area with a background in one of the core academic disciplines in this field. You will co-ordinate the School's existing research in HRM/D, play a lead role in the development of curricula within this area and make a contribution to the School's teaching at Masters' level. An appointment may be made to a Chair for a candidate of exceptional quality.

Ref A7238

## Senior Lecturer in Strategic Decision Making

£28,380 - £33,202

You will be educated to PhD level, possibly with an MBA and will have a background in the behavioural sciences. The successful candidate will be research active, with a good track record of research and teaching in the field of strategic decision making, will be responsible for the development of the School's research activities in this area and will make a contribution to the School's MBA programmes.

Ref A7238

## Lecturer in Information Systems/Information Technology

£16,945 - £22,985

You should be PhD qualified, have a number of years' experience teaching IS and IT at MBA level and be able to demonstrate a record of relevant published research. The ability to teach in other areas, such as operations management, would be a distinct advantage.

Ref A7238

Informal enquiries can be made to Professor Tony Cockerill, Director of DUBS on 0191 374 2200 or e-mail: [Tony.Cockerill@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Tony.Cockerill@durham.ac.uk).

Further details may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3EP (tel: 0191 374 7258; fax: 0191 374 2333 or e-mail: [Acad.Recruit@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Acad.Recruit@durham.ac.uk)).

Closing date for all posts: 12 January 1998. Please quote appropriate reference.

**Scope** (formerly The Spastics Society) is the UK's largest charity working with disabled people. We exist to enable men, women and children with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities to claim their rights, lead full and rewarding lives and play a full part in society.

Meldreth Manor School is a Residential School for 100 pupils with physical disabilities, severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties aged 6-19+ years of age. The school implements a pioneering inter-disciplinary staffing structure involving some 300 people to deliver an integrated education across the whole of the school. This structure is being augmented with these new roles with effect from January 1998.

## Senior Teacher/Assessment Officer

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You will need:

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- 5 weeks paid holiday apply.

For further details and an application form please contact: The Head Teacher, Meldreth Manor School, Fenny Lane, Meldreth, Royston, Herts. SG8 6LG. Tel: 01763 260771. CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date for applications: 22nd December 1997.

Interviews will be held early in January 1998.

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## TEACHER TRAINING AGENCY

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The Teacher Training Agency (TTA) invites applications for the post of External Reviewer. The successful applicant will review, on request, complaints made against the TTA and will be independent of the Agency.

Candidates should have experience of the following areas: funding bodies, higher education and preferably, arbitration. The appointment will be for an initial fixed period of three years. The workload will vary but it is not expected to exceed ten days per annum. A daily fee will be paid and travel and other expenses will be met.

The Teacher Training Agency has a central role in the Government's drive to raise standards in schools. Established in 1994, it aims to improve the quality of teaching, raise standards of teacher training and promote teaching as a profession.

For further information and an application form, please call **GUY LONGHORN** on 0171 273 6194, or write to him at the Department for Education and Employment, Level 5, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Completed application forms should be returned with a CV by Friday 9 January 1998.



Teacher  
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Agency

## MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## HEAD

The Governors invite applications for the Headship of the School, which becomes vacant on 1st September 1998, following the appointment of Miss Elizabeth Diggory as High Mistress of St Paul's Girls' School.

Particulars of the appointment can be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Governors,  
Manchester High School  
for Girls, Grangethorpe Road,  
Manchester M14 6HS.  
Telephone 0161-224 0447

The closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday January 23rd.

TRINITY HALL,  
CambridgeNightingale Studentships  
PhD Research in the Field of Mental Health

Trinity Hall invites applications for the above Studentships, which were established in memory of the late Michael Nightingale, a member of the College who died in 1991, and are funded from his bequest. They are open to all qualified graduates, of whatever university and whatever nationality, who wish to conduct doctoral research at Cambridge (or are already engaged in such research) in the field of mental health.

It would be a condition of the award of the Nightingale studentship that the successful applicant be admitted as a postgraduate research student by the Board of Graduate Studies of the University of Cambridge and be, or become, a member of Trinity Hall. Preference will be given to applicants who wish to conduct research into the operation

of the Court of Protection, but the College is prepared to consider any topic that falls within, or is appropriately related to, the field of mental health.

The amount of the grant (including fees and maintenance and reasonable research costs) will be at full-cost level. Studentships may be held for up to three years (with effect from 1 October 1998).

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from: The Master, Trinity Hall, Cambridge CB2 1TL. Enquiries may be made by post, by fax (01223 462116) or by e-mail ([tla24@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tla24@cam.ac.uk)) but not by telephone. The closing date for receipt of the completed application forms is 31 March 1998. Please quote RNS/TH/98.

## INDEPENDENT EDUCATION



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For further details about entry in September 1998, please contact

The Registration Secretary 0181 255 5352

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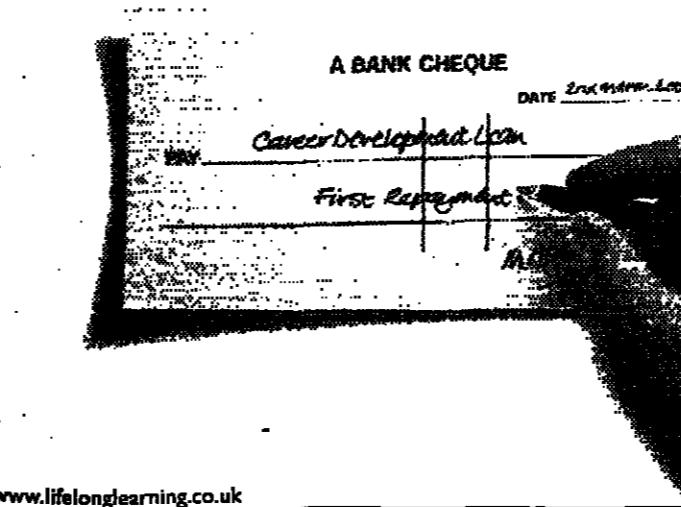
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# EDUCATION

A rural life seems ideal. But for the young, Fred Redwood says, it may be anything but

## The horrors for a child of a country upbringing

To bring up children in a country village is the dream of many parents. Early years spent enjoying a Laurie Lee existence, car-singing at Christmas and helping out on the farms in summer seem far removed from the inner-city ambience of drugs and street violence. But is this merely a romantic dream?

This week's report by the Rural Development Commission suggested that for many people it is. Facilities taken for granted by town dwellers were often absent in the countryside. Education was high on the list of potential problems because, despite a 17 per cent increase in population over 20 years, almost half of the 9,000 rural parishes had no school.

An earlier investigation by The Children's Society (*Same Scenery, Different Lifestyle*) found that even where schools do exist, many children are extremely frustrated by country life. They feel isolated and bored when they cannot visit friends or travel to clubs for lack of public transport. Several described their lives as negative and short on opportunities. So serious is the problem that many head teachers of rural schools have set up initiatives to help to solve the special problems experienced by country children.

Eric Jones is the head of Bro Myrddin School, Llandaff, a comprehensive in Mid Wales where the curriculum is taught in Welsh. This 820-pupil school has a huge catchment area, drawing from 30 feeder primary schools in the surrounding rural communities. Children commonly undertake 40-mile round trips between school and home every day. The travel itself causes difficulties because very few children can stay after school for extracurricular activities. Mr Jones says: "Our children know very few of their year group when they arrive here. An ideal way for them to make friends would be by joining after-school clubs, but travel ar-

rangements make that impossible. The school buses have to leave at the end of school, so there is a danger that some of our children could remain socially isolated. To counter this, we decided to break the ice for these youngsters. Before they even start at the school, we run a residential course for the 150 pupils who transfer to us each year."

The bridging course is mainly a bonding experience, with recreational and academic pursuits. It is staffed by sixth-formers and staff from the primary and the secondary schools, so that socialising problems can be nipped in the bud."

A similar situation exists at Poltair School, St Austell, Cornwall. There, a child from one of the more remote farms may meet nobody else of a similar age outside school hours from one week to the next. The school encourages these pupils to socialise during "twilight time" — a curriculum enhancement period between 3.15pm and 3.45pm every day.

Mike Stevenson, the head teacher, says: "The aim is to encourage the children to socialise and it has been very successful. We first conducted a survey to find out exactly what children wanted to take part in. There was an enthusiastic response and we now run 80 different clubs, ranging from girls' rugby and Roller-blading to computer studies. Now we seldom encounter the kind of timid child who is overwhelmed by the size of the comprehensive, although we are still alert to the problem. 'School phobia' is dealt with as a subject of special needs provision."

In Newbury, Berkshire, the problems faced by country children have resulted in an "outreach" counselling service being started. The "Time to Talk" workers operate in the rural schools, listening to the problems of children living in the beautiful downland villages between Newbury and Oxford. It is hardly an area one would associate with adolescent angst

and social misery, yet Theresa Bell, the outreach leader, is kept busy. She has identified some common problems among the village children. "In a close-knit community each child is very visible and vulnerable," she says. "So if one child falls out with the local kids there is no opportunity to move into a new friendship group, as would happen in a town. Being the odd one out then makes bullying a real possibility."

The school bus journey is also an issue. Boredom can lead to horseplay, which can lead to bullying. These journeys are a hotbed of problems.

"Incoming children to a rural area may also find problems. Strangers are not always welcomed by country people and



A childhood in the midst of nature: the reality is not always so delightful

setting into a small community may not be easy. Curiously, though, the biggest frustration experienced by country children is their inability to get others to take their problems seriously. Everyone assumes they have an idyllic existence and people forget that they face the same adolescent problems as everyone else."

"Their parents may split up; they have problems at school and they have relationship difficulties just like city children. But because they live in a pretty village everyone assumes they can cope."

"In fact, it may be doubly difficult for them because their friends who can provide support, probably live a long way away and they may be unable to meet up and talk."

## How a tough line is putting the clock back on race

New approaches to multiculture difficulties will not work, writes John Eggleston

**T**his year's conference of the National Anti-Racist Movement in Education attracted about 200 delegates. At its peak, before it changed its name from the National Association for Multicultural Education, its annual gathering regularly attracted between 200 and 300 of the most committed educators. They were concerned to minimise the differences in the achievements between black children and white, seeing it as one of the greatest social inequalities, and wanting to do something to alleviate it.

Ten years on, some of the differences are being overcome. The impressive improvements in the achievements of British Indian children are well-documented. But Bangladeshi children, as a group, still do very poorly and there is much concern about the low achievement of many Caribbean children, notably boys. Yet the sensitive, culturally aware approach that was developed and effectively implemented in some education authorities in the early 1980s is widely discredited.

Instead, we have repeated exhortations of zero tolerance of failure and views such as "They're here so they should be treated all alike" being expressed by governments past and present. And the new Government's White Paper on *Excellence in Education* devoted only one page to all issues of ethnicity and schooling.

Why this marginalisation of almost 10 per cent of the school population? It isn't because sensitive approaches do not work; the Department for Education and Employment is funding research based at the Open University which is studying schools where such approaches are working well for all children. And in roughly the same period, a parallel problem, the lower achievement of girls in science and technology, has been mostly solved, evidently the result of "girl-friendly" approaches.

Alas, there is nothing friendly about the anti-racist ideology that now claims to be the only viable way to overcome ethnic underachievement. It is deliberately hard-edged in approach, arguing that the old gentle, gradual path of multicultural education was too slow and should be replaced by a tough, challenging strategy.

The change of emphasis was taken up by a small but vocal group of radical

practitioners. Despite the good intentions of most of its advocates, it was almost predictable that a few excesses of the new zeal would be widely reported and given a "toony left" tag.

Much more serious was the effect on teachers. The vast majority are resistant to the politicisation of their teaching, especially when many were pilloried as being either manifestly or latently racist.

The net result was often that less rather than more, anti-racism took place, as teachers distanced themselves from what they saw as unjust criticism.

This distancing was all the more worrying because it occurred at precisely the same time as public concern reached new peaks.

What can be done? The priority must be to diminish the confrontations set up by anti-racism — the conflict between "experts" and teachers, the conflict between teachers and teachers, and above all, the conflict in the classroom, where in some inner-city schools, students now challenge rather than co-operate with teachers. We must reinvent racially friendly and teacher-and-pupil friendly approaches.

Such approaches would recognise that Britain has truly become a multicultural society and that pedagogy and the interpretation of curriculum must take this into account. But it must also be recognised that high achievement is the common goal of children and parents from all ethnic backgrounds — provided that they are able to believe that they have the opportunity and support to reach that objective.

**I**n the United States, this approach has been dominant for almost half a century and, despite many vicissitudes, its achievements throughout the nation are impressive. And there the commonly used slogan is multicultural education for a multicultural society.

Now that our Government is rediscovering concepts such as equality, inclusiveness and opportunity in education, we should also rediscover the true meaning of a multicultural education and use it to achieve the reconceptualisation that has eluded us for so long.

• The author is Professor of Education at Warwick University.

## Safety lessons children will learn for life

How can the young cope with danger? A two-week course gives answers, says Jenny Knight



Coping with emergencies such as fire should be part of schooling

"Sorry, you've died in the fire," Ralf Nicholson, of the London Fire Brigade, told the ten-year-olds who had just dashed back into a "burning house" to rescue a baby. Mr Nicholson and other experts have been giving lessons in danger to more than 900 Year Six children from Lewisham primary schools at the Bridge Leisure Centre in South London.

The two-week course uses 11 stage sets representing different hazards, from a railway line to a building site, to let the children show how they would cope with an emergency. Even the most streetwise pupils allowed themselves to be abducted by a stranger, tackled a chip-pan fire the wrong way, ran into burning buildings and failed to spot all the potential dangers in a kitchen.

PC Roy Wood, the co-ordinator, said: "The aim is to reinforce safety messages and to help the children learn from the experience of maybe choosing the wrong option. They get a lot of information, from the importance of wearing bright clothes at night to how to deal with accidents."

Claire Adams, 21, a probationary policewoman, played the role of the smooth-talking "stranger" when 23 children from St Augustine's RC School in Bellingham arrived for their afternoon at the centre. She waylaid the children in pairs as they went up a stairway. By claiming to be on the staff of the leisure centre, she persuaded most of the children to tell her their names and addresses and whether they walk to school on their own. Then she asked one of the children to go into a room for a fitness test. As she led the child off, Geoff Best, a uniformed constable, came to the rescue, explaining to the mortified youngsters that strangers do not always look sinister.

PC Best said: "We remind them to stay out of reach of a stranger, but if they are approached to get ready to run and to say: 'I'm sorry, I've been told not to speak to strangers.' When they arrive for the session they are told not to talk to anyone not wearing a uniform or a badge, but de-

spite that most of them will be drawn into a conversation. These acting sessions made me realise how easy it is to talk children into going with a stranger. We show them that strangers who might hurt them will initially seem unthreatening and plausible."

Matthew Ringham, a teacher at St Augustine's, said: "I'm not so surprised that most of them spoke to a stranger because they are a trusting bunch, but I didn't expect so many of them to try to pull someone off a railway line."

Jack Griffith and Francine Lemard, both ten, fell into conversation with the stranger on the stairs, but redeemed them-

selves by giving PC Best an accurate description of the "kidnapper". Jack said: "It was a bit unfair because I thought she was another of the people working here. We would have been more suspicious if she had spoken to us in the street."

His classmates, Sean Winter and Stacey Barcoe, passed the "talk to a stranger" test with flying colours by refusing to talk to me until reassured by the police that I was a reporter. Both declined to pull a victim from the railway and did not run back into the building for the baby — but still managed to "die" in the fire.

Sean said: "We were told to feel the doorknob to see whether it was hot before opening a door on to the fire. Stacey felt it, but only for a second. Then we opened the door. If the fire had been right outside the room, we should have kept the door closed because it will hold a fire back for about 15 minutes and the fire brigade usually arrives quickly."

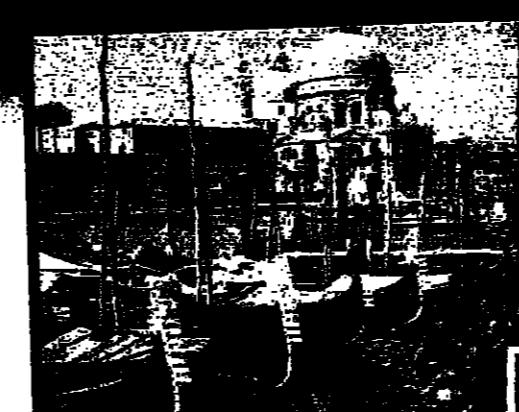
All the children, on the Junior Citizens course, sponsored by Lewisham council, practised phoning emergency services to give them experience of the questions they are likely to be asked.

Jane Fox, an accident prevention specialist for Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark Health Authority, stocked a kitchen with an astounding array of hazards, including bleach in lemonade bottles, an aerosol spray on the oven and a dangerous iron. Most children spotted several hazards, but few knew the right way to tackle a chip-pan fire — most opting to throw water on it, which spreads the flames. Others "electrocuted" themselves when asked how they would free a piece of toast jammed in the toaster, by reaching for a knife to plunge into the toaster before switching off the electricity.

The annual Junior Citizen courses started in Greenwich ten years ago and spread to other London boroughs and into the Home Counties. Until last year, most were sponsored by BT, but now the survival of the schemes depends on individual sponsorship.

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CHANGING TIMES

# 'Aim high and aim right. Be ambitious. And don't be afraid to look dead expensive'

**Maggie Brown** talks to a woman in the BBC's male-dominated upper stratum who is destined for high office at the corporation

Jana Bennett is small and resilient with an American twang to her voice. She bustles into her office — which is strewn with bowls of fresh fruit — late, in a workaday trouser suit, looking anything but a powerbroker.

Those who worked alongside her as she has risen from lowly Sheffield-based BBC news trainee to award-winning department head say that she is a bit scatter and untidy — but driven.

In conversation, she can ramble idiosyncratically before coming (eventually) to the point. After hours in her company, over dinner, in her office, the first impression holds true: she is not a typical corporate player. In fact, there is nobody quite like her at the top of the BBC. And that is her charm and her strength. She is a breath of fresh air.

This autumn she emerged in a crucial post, just one small rung below the top of the BBC programme-making empire.

In corporate-speak, Bennett, 41, has replaced Alan Yentob as director of production. She is openly being groomed to become the next chief executive of BBC Production, when her boss, the stalwart Ron Neil, decides to retire. Her task is to lead and inspire 4,000 producers and staff who are organised into 18 different departments (soon to be reduced in number) as they supply 600 million of programmes to the BBC channels — everything from *EastEnders* to Websites in the multimedia era. "I am," she says, "in sync with the channel controllers." It would be hopeless if she were not.

The role is newish, but the pressures are constant. It requires a strong, hustling personality, someone with the confidence to leap on trends to keep the BBC's channel controllers asking for more.

As for her management style? "Direct verbal coupling," she replies deadpan. "Talking to people is a very good idea."

Why Bennett? Well, 12 million viewers are regularly charmed by one of her biggest hits, *Animal Hospital*. The quaint mixture of poorly hamsters, tearful pet-owners having to put down Rover, and the grizzled Rolf Harris provides perfect family entertainment.

The BBC, despite Birtish-imposed management gobbledegook, respects and promotes executives, even oddballs, when their departments have the effrontery to put together such mixtures.

Bennett moved into the fast track of BBC Television three years ago when she became head of its Science Department. This group also embraced business features, which have increasingly focused on people rather than statistics. It began

## the media interview

backlash which produced an upper BBC stratum dominated by men made their claims difficult to overlook.

Her performance at Edinburgh was revealing. There is, as one executive noted, something fearless about Bennett. She says her strengths include the ability to focus, to switch off and to manage on a small amount of sleep. She is a "fair-weather" cyclist and loves mountaineering.

But can she survive on the heady peak, in the notoriously male-dominated upper reaches of BBC corporate life which spat out Liz Fagan and cowed other promising women into shadowy figures?

Corporate board meetings are, she observes, hard. "Is there a style... which is male? Yes there is." But then she described an exchange at the board of management, the BBC's top policy forum, on which she sits. The members had been discussing the pattern of Friday nights, when young men are thought to order a Chinese takeaway, settle down with a bottle and watch a series of comedies, or — they hope — BBC. "I said, 'so do I! Then the other women around the table said that they did, too."

Bennett, in true Austen heroine fashion, is the middle of five daughters, born to the dean of admissions' New England College, New Hampshire. She had the liberal, literary upbringing that came with the territory. When she was 13 her father decided to tour Europe on half-pay for a year, taking his children out of school. He returned to America to convince the college that he should open an



Jana Bennett: once a lowly BBC trainee, now being groomed to become the next chief executive of BBC Production

English branch in Arundel, West Sussex.

At the age of 14, Bennett and three of her sisters were transported to Bognor Regis, to a house next to the Bullion's holiday camp: she completed her schooling at Bognor Comprehensive, went on to take PPE at St Anne's College, Oxford, and an MSc at the London School of Economics.

"It was a culture shock," she recalls. "I'd lived in a small American village. I hated it for the first two years." She has preserved her accent — a sign of not being fully assimilated. Her father said: "I'll support you in whatever educational opportunities you have, on condition that you elope. Don't expect me to pay for the wedding."

With a guffaw, she describes how she got married in a quickie ceremony in Las Vegas two years ago to her partner, Richard Clemmow, head of BBC News and author of the infamous memo temporarily demoting programme editors to assistants, which led to the now famous presenters' revolt and an intervention by Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman.

She says "the wedding was totally on the spur of the moment," but was suggested by their daughter, Alexandra, now six (there is also a son, Skomer, three). The value of having a large family remains. Her youngest sister, her cameraman-husband and two children, live next door in East Acton, minutes from Television Centre. They have a communal

garden and the children play together. "We've got the bulk without the effort," she says.

So, what does she bring to this most challenging of jobs? She rattles out her dictums. "Aim high, aim right. Be ambitious, and don't be afraid to look dead expensive or to make fantastically chirpy programmes."

**B**efore moving from the Science Department she took her own advice, commissioning the most expensive documentary [a £9 million co-production] ever made by the BBC. Called *Walking With Dinosaurs*, it is using *Jurassic Park's* digital animators to reproduce their life.

She also wants "to facilitate a more creative climate", and touched upon the devastating speech delivered by Tony Garnett, *This Life's* drama producer, last month, pleading for respect and improved conditions for writers and creative talent. "We wouldn't ignore what he has to say," she promises.

In developments now being plotted within BBC Production, executive producers are to be given a freer access to development money, to build up their portfolio.

She comments: "They should not feel hemmed in."

They are also going to be encouraged to talk directly to the various channel controllers, who commission pro-

grammes, to discuss their ideas. She is also planning to have fewer departments working across wider fields of expertise, so that hybrids are created. She insists she is not trying to "super-manage" or second-guess perfectly well-run departments.

Only last month BBC Production opportunistically merged TV and Radio sports production, supplying Radio 5 Live and TV sporting events.

Her biggest challenge is twofold. She has to flesh out the unequal relationship between the two great wings of the BBC — broadcasting, which holds the chequebooks, and her programme-makers. The great split in effect dissolved obligations. But these are being reformulated. The new phrase, which trips handily from her tongue, is that everyone is "part of the BBC family".

BBC Production has won an understanding from broadcasting that 60 per cent of commissions by value will go to them, infuriating independent producers. The Controllers of BBC1 and BBC2 will sit on boards which appoint key executives within BBC Production to ensure that they are then committed to taking their programmes.

But the final challenge is whether her complete lack of experience in drama and entertainment, the big spenders and audience-pullers, and areas needing special attention, will tell against her. Is a hit with cuddly animals preparation enough?

## Making a date on the air

TV and lonely hearts ads. **Virginia Matthews** reports

**B**ritain's first television ad campaign for telephone dating will be aired in the new year after a three-year battle by the 0891 lonely hearts industry to overturn a longstanding TV ban.

The 30-second ad, for Victoria Telecom's "Speak Easy" service — where the lonely are put in contact with each other for 50p a minute — marks what Chris Bradbury, the managing director, calls "the first stage in our bid to gain public acceptance for a much-maligned service".

More than 15 million chatline or telephone dating calls are made in Britain each year. While the entire sector has been repeatedly accused of peddling filth, not to mention running up huge phone bills, the telephone watchdog ICSTIS believes that the industry has cleaned up its act in recent months.

Victoria Telecom is one of the country's top five date and chatline companies with a turnover in excess of £2.5 million. Its ad will show "fully dressed men and women over the age of 18 enjoying getting to know each other over the phone in a non-pressured environment".

In deference to the ITC code, which forbids the exploitation of "emotional vulnerability", or anything that appears to "encourage or condone promiscuity", the voiceover will talk about the values of friendship, romance and love.

But according to the industry's critics, who include the Society of Marriage Bureaux, telephone dating is all about sex. Its director, Penrose Halson, says the relaxation of the ban on TV commercials for telephone dating is "legitimising a potentially dubious industry" and should be reversed.

Ms Halson fears that many people who resort to 0891/0895 services "end up feeling exploited and ripped off, not to mention more lonely than ever".

Glyn Piction, chairman of the Telephone Dating Services Association, counters that the fees charged by traditional introduction agencies or marriage bureaux — anything from £300 to £600 for initial introductions — are out of reach of most people, and involve weeks of "frustrating screening by third parties".

He says: "If you're a lonely gay person or unhappily married you may not want to be given the stark choice of braving the local disco or shellshelling out £500 for a list of people that some marriage broker believes will be suitable."

The ITC's decision to relax its rules on the dating industry reflects what a commission spokesman calls a "fundamental switch in society's attitude to dating" which today is seen as a way of making new friends, rather than an automatic route to the altar.

While it continues to ban ads for escort agencies, the ITC takes the view that advances in telephone technology such as number screening have reduced the potential security risks of telephone dating.

The ad for Victoria Telecom poses unusual creative problems for the team behind it. Mr Bradbury says:

"Being the first ad, the watchdogs will be keeping a close eye on it," he says, "and that means no naked torsos, no women in low-cut blouses or anything remotely suggestive in either the film or the voiceover."

Mr Piction concedes that sexually orientated telephone calls are a fact of life in his industry, but adds: "I think you'll find that the ads for my members' services will be about as raunchy as Mary Poppins."

## It's nine o'clock — turn off the news

### Mischief-making

**I**N Monday's *Media Guardian* Viscount Rothermere, proprietor of the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard* observed in a rare interview that "a little mischief is always necessary in life". In the current and, it must be admitted, highly readable edition of *Punch*, the new Editor, James Steen, has rushed to oblige.

He has printed part one of a grubby kiss-and-tell account of "the story Fleet Street refused to publish" — detailing the late Viscountess "Bubbles" Rothermere's passion for young men, as told by ex-toy boy Ashley Roy. And to think that around this time of year Bubbles used to throw a giant party. Was Fleet Street really cowed into silence? Or did it just avert its eyes?

getting uppity... As the huge April 1 shake-up in the schedule draws nearer, many of the most famous voices are sounding strained. Melvyn Bragg, whose beloved *Start the Week* is being cut to half an hour and restricted to two guests, has signed up for only 13 weeks. Laurie Taylor, a broadcaster on Radio 4 for 20 years, currently on the doomed *Afternoon Shift*, says he has yet to find a regular new berth. The five cultured presenters of *Kaleidoscope*

Paul Allen, Paul Vaughan, Paul Gambaccini, Lynne Walker, Tim Marlow) are being dispensed with when the arts strand is replaced with a snazzier, shorter 7pm slot. Will *The Guardian's* Mark Lawson stand in? Jenny Murray, the honeyed voice of *Woman's Hour*, is thought to be restless, too: just "rumours", she says.

What I know is this: my phone has been red hot with Radio 4 stalwarts who believe that the complete overhaul

which started last July is not going smoothly, no matter what assurances the BBC's governors are given. And with less than four months to go, there are entire slots and programmes seeking both inspiration and presenters.

**A COMMERCIAL** for Harvester restaurants is being investigated by the Broadcasting Standards Commission after a viewer said it was "sexually suggestive". The commercial shows

a couple silently sharing a £14.99 Harvester platter. It is reminiscent of that scene in the 1962 film of *Tom Jones* when Albert Finney and Joyce Redman acted out the most erotic meal on celluloid with chicken legs and lustful fruit — but with touches of *When Harry Met Sally* thrown in for good measure. To think Harvester spare ribs and king prawns could be that exciting!

**ON MONDAY** Sir Michael Bishop, Chairman of Channel 4, will preside over his last board meeting which is due to fix next year's budget. Another four directors, David Plowright, Bert Hardy, Sir David Nicholas and Mary McAleese (the new President of Ireland) will also bow out. But there is still no news on who is going to fill the gaps. Everyone involved knows there should have been a shadow chairman for the past few months since Channel 4 is heading into a new team under its chief executive, Michael Jackson. "It really is a mess," says one director crossly, though interviews are under way. Word has it that Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, is ready and willing, and would provide the commercial experience deemed essential to balance Jackson's creative input.



A special edition of *Nationwide*, which was presented by children in December 1980

RADIO 4's presenters are

languishing in the shadows. The new *Start the Week* is being cut to half an hour and restricted to two guests, while *Woman's Hour* is being axed. *Kaleidoscope* is being replaced by a snazzier, shorter 7pm slot. And *Afternoon Shift* is doomed. Laurie Taylor, a broadcaster on Radio 4 for 20 years, has yet to find a regular new berth. The five cultured presenters of *Kaleidoscope*

JP Lohse

## Chisholm bows out with party at Annabel's

**O**n Wednesday night they marked the end of an era in British broadcasting with some style in Annabel's club in London's Berkeley Square. As it was, it was relatively short — only seven years — but there is no doubt that British broadcasting was permanently changed as a result. They were there to pay a fond farewell to Sam Chisholm, until a few weeks ago chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television venture.

If a terrible accident had struck Annabel's on Wednesday, a large slice of the media's top brass would have been wiped out. On Sam Chisholm's left sat Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada and BSkyB, and on his right Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications and of British Digital Broadcasting, the digital terrestrial television venture which plans to launch more than a dozen new channels next year.

Around the club were littered those who had helped Chisholm to make BSkyB the most profitable broadcaster in Europe, if not the most powerful, and those he had jostled with over the years — such as Will Wyatt from the BBC, Bob Phillips, the new chairman of the Guardian Media Group, and Don Cruickshank, the strong-minded Director-General of Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator.

In an eloquent testimony to what BSkyB has done for football, and football has done for BSkyB, the directors' box at Annabel's contained not just Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, but also Sir John Hall, the man who transformed Newcastle United.

In his tribute, Gerry Robinson scarcely needed to say that Chisholm had taken over "one hell of a mess" when worried shareholders had arranged the shotgun marriage of Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting. Then the combined company was bleeding £14 million a week in losses. Now the profits of BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, are running at more than £6 million a week. And Chisholm and BSkyB carved out £1 billion a year of revenue for a pay-television market in the UK that nobody had seriously tapped before.

"I don't think anyone else could have done it in quite the same way," said Robinson.

But for all the jollity — Bob Monkhouse told the jokes and Sir David Frost was the questionmaster for a week — University



**Raymond Snoddy**

channels of digital television next year when as many as 60 or 70 of them will be devoted to films on a pay-per-view basis.

Already, to see such films as *The Long Kiss Goodnight* and *Michael Collins* several months before they are screened on the normal subscription movie channels, viewers simply have to call a number and the system automatically "crisearms" the film for viewing and bills them for £2.99.

The whole economics of 200-channel television will depend on the public's willingness to pay for such movies and exclusive sports events.

Apart from having to persuade the audience to move from mere subscription television to pay-per-view television, the new management at BSkyB could run into a serious obstacle — in the shape of Sam Chisholm happily sipping his champagne on Wednesday evening.

What would happen if satellite dish owners turn out to be content with the 40 channels or so of television that Chisholm put together for them and turned out to be reluctant to migrate to 200 channels of digital — whatever discounts were provided?

That would indeed be a curious legacy for the 1990-97 era of British broadcasting.

A free bar is one agency's way of bonding staff after a merger, says Carol Midgley



When the creative guru behind Wonderbra's famous "Hello Boys" poster left TBWA Simons Palmer after the merger, the client soon followed

# HELLO BOYS.

THE ONE AND ONLY  
**Wonderbra**

## Life after Wonderbra

**I**n the vast reception area of TBWA Simons Palmer's new London headquarters is a plentifully stocked, licensed bar. Not any old bar, you understand. This one is free, providing unlimited alcohol for all staff and anyone else who happens to be passing through.

The bar, modelled on Virgin's first-class lounge at Heathrow, forms the centerpiece of the advertising agency which brought us Wonderbra, Goldfish and Nike.

The idea is to evoke a new mood of optimism and help staff to bond since the recent controversial merger between TBWA Simons Palmer Clemow Johnson and Omnicom's TBWA. But if good morale was to be found lacking, it would hardly be surprising.

Since the merger, several high-profile clients have been lost amid a welter of publicity.

Trevor Beattie, the creative guru behind the "Hello Boys" Wonderbra posters, decided that he could not work under the new arrangement. He left, and Wonderbra, whose posters filled more newspaper gossip columns than any other last year, soon followed.

Contracts for Wrigleys and the Nat-

ional Canine Defence League were the next to go.

Last week Nike, for which Simons Palmer had worked for seven years, transferred its UK business to its global agency Weiden & Kennedy. It was a particularly bitter blow. Simons Palmer had achieved stunning success for Nike with a host of award-winning campaigns and the acclaimed *Parklife* commercial featuring most Premier League players.

The agency coolly responded by taking out a two-page ad in *Campaign*, featuring all its Nike work with the caption: "All the best from TBWA Simons Palmer."

Paul Simons, chief executive of the agency, says: "It is true that there was a lot of anger over that because we had worked with them for seven years. When we first took on the business, Nike was a £40 million company here. Today it is a £400 million company.

We took an obscure brand and made it a household name. And now they have decided to stop doing business and you think 'Well, thanks guys.'

Nike spent about £10 million a year with Simons Palmer, but Simons is stoical, insisting that he always knew

Nike would drop them if Weiden & Kennedy opened a London operation.

"This is not the worst thing we've had to cope with, believe me," he says.

"Our biggest crisis was losing British Telecom. We were only three years old and BT was spending £30 million a year with us. But a couple of weeks later we got a contract from *The Sun*.

"People can't operate in this world if they go around with a defeatist attitude. Mentally, you have to be like an athlete and learn to pick yourself up after a knock. After we lost Nike, the people here were upset momentarily but then they said, 'Oh well, to hell with it.'

**S**imons said he had offered Beattie some of his personal shares to stay but he felt betrayed at not being told of the merger. Beattie had wanted to head the creative team but Simons told him it was impossible.

Trevor is great but I had to think in terms of the whole agency and all the other creatives we have here. His leaving is another thing which just happens. Trevor's personal fame came from things like Wonderbra, which

was very high profile but in our terms, low in importance. It was only worth about £100,000, which is tiny relatively speaking."

The agency's biggest client is currently Nissan (which spends £50 million a year), and key clients such as Sony Playstation, *News of the World*, *The Sun* and Bally International. This month it will be pitching to Guinness and ITV.

By merging two very different agencies, the strategy is to become an international creative force and agency of the year in 1998. The free bar is the first stage in their bid to knit the two agencies together.

"I wanted something colourful and uplifting, to feel like a home. Someone said I should put £50,000 aside for one of those staff bonding weekends and I thought, why not just spend it on a free bar? If you want social glue, the best way to achieve it is to have people standing talking to each other. I want this agency to be warm, non-corporate and an antidote to all the others. We want to be the most successful and the most creative agency around. The more creative you are, the more the product sells."

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## CRICKET

# Hollioake to come under scrutiny as one-day captain

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN LAHORE

ENGLAND return to competitive cricket today when their one-day side plays Pakistan A in a 50-over game at the Gaddafi Stadium, where Sri Lanka won the World Cup last year. On Sunday, they complete their preparations with another game of similar length before they go to Sharjah on Monday for the Champions Tournament.

The Pakistani senior team will meet them there, along with India and West Indies, who are in the doghouse after their appalling performances in the Test series here. Nothing much rests on the outcome in Lahore, but a couple of wins would obviously send England to Sharjah in good heart.

In the first instance, it will be instructive to see how Adam Hollioake shapes up as he leads England for the first time. There is also the chance to see how a side of players considered one-day specialists — or at least more special than others — gels. It looks a fair team, perhaps good enough to win next week.

England finalized their team last night after David Lloyd, the manager, and David Graveney, the tour manager, met the players. Lloyd would say only that all 14 members of the party will

be involved over the weekend. Alastair Brown, of Surrey, will certainly open the batting, possibly with Nick Knight, who has some ground to make up after missing the bulk of the last international summer.

Knight is one of nine players here who are not going to the Caribbean next month. Instead, he will lead the A team on its tour of Kenya and Sri Lanka.

Hollioake is joined by Stewart Thorpe, Headley and Croft of the senior touring team. The people who appear to have the best chance of making a significant impression in the next fortnight are Doug Blythe, the Warwickshire all-rounder, and Matthew Fleming, who played for the senior side in the first Test against West Indies.

Northamptonshire and Worcestershire yesterday stepped up their efforts to sign Devon Malcolm after his announcement that he had rejected Derbyshire's offer of a new contract. The competing counties have held preliminary talks with the England fast bowler, 34, in recent weeks after he became a free agent on November 1, despite Derbyshire's hopes of persuading him to stay.

Worcestershire are believed to be favourites for his services. John Chadd, the Worcestershire cricket committee chairman, said: "We have spoken with Devon and although you never take anything for granted until the name is on the contract, we are reasonably confident of signing him."

Yorkshire have ruled out further negotiations with the owners of Headingley, aimed at resolving their long-running dispute and exploring the possibility of developing the Test venue. Preliminary discussions into an application for Lottery funding to upgrade Headingley broke down on Wednesday night, with Yorkshire accusing Paul Caddick, the chairman of the company that owns the ground, of "uncompromising tactics".

Dermot Reeve plans to play one-day matches for Somerset next season, the county has confirmed. Reeve, 34, was forced to stop playing in 1996 because of an arthritic hip, having led Warwickshire to six trophies in the previous three summers.

He emerged as the star in waiting a decade ago, he is the likely replacement batsman should any misfortune occur in the West Indies to the selected players.

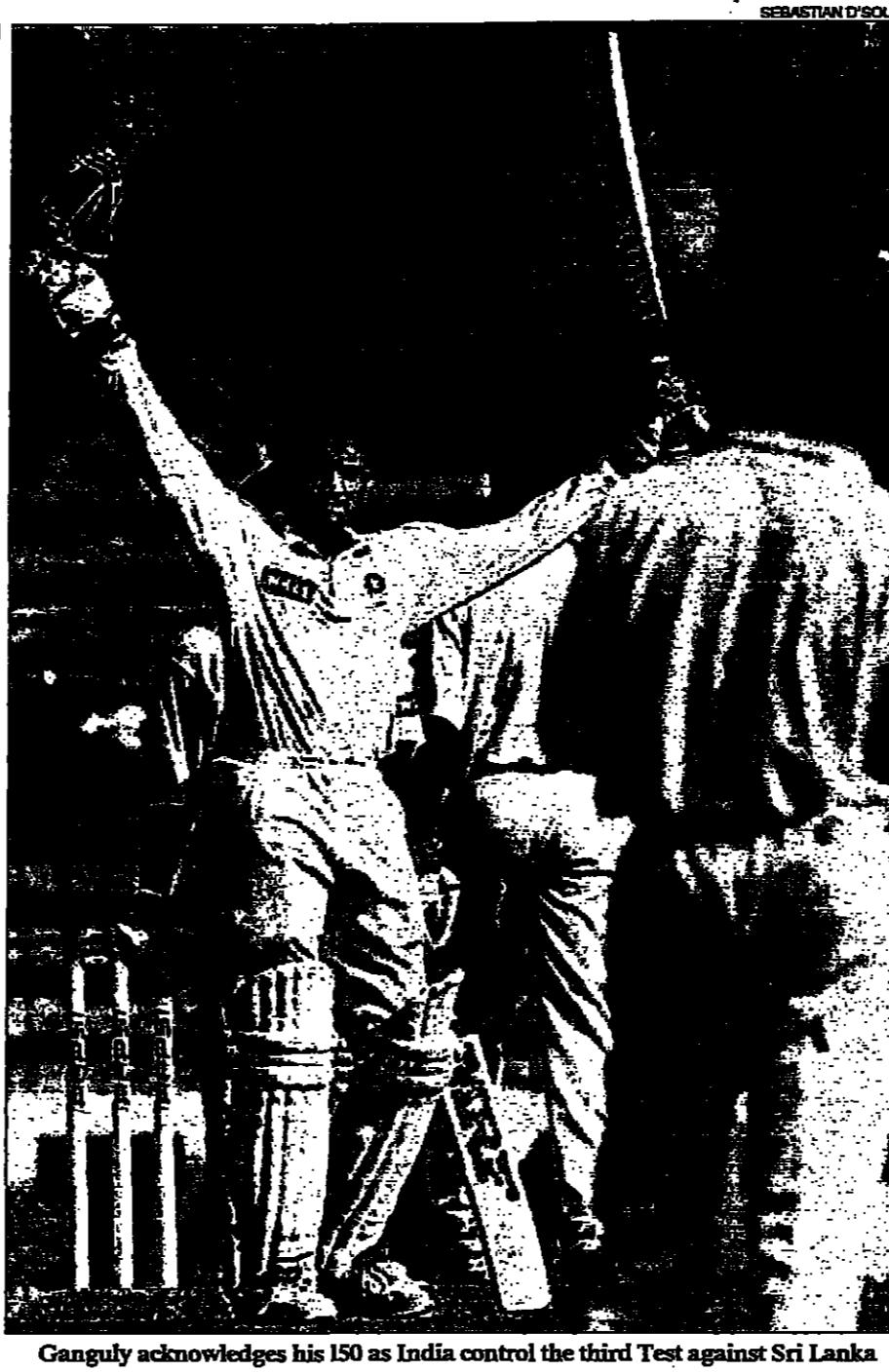
Pakistan A will be led by Aqib Javed, the former Hampshire pace bowler, who has fallen from favour in the eyes of the Test selectors. Their team also includes Shahid Afridi, who holds the record for the fastest century in one-day international cricket, and Shahid Nazir, who played for the senior side in the first Test against West Indies.

Devon Malcolm after his announcement that he had rejected Derbyshire's offer of a new contract. The competing counties have held preliminary talks with the England fast bowler, 34, in recent weeks after he became a free agent on November 1, despite Derbyshire's hopes of persuading him to stay.

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Ganguly acknowledges his 150 as India control the third Test against Sri Lanka.

## Counties veto plan to withdraw players

THE prospects of the England team received a further blow yesterday when the counties again rejected a proposal to allow the chairman of selectors automatic right to withdraw players from domestic games (Alan Lee writes). The motion was rejected 6-8 at a meeting of the First Class Forum of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The officers of the ECB, and a majority of the executive board, had backed the move to rationalise the priority and protection of England's Test cricketers.

I understand a pattern of voting was almost identical to

that which prevailed in September on the issue of a two-division county championship. The biggest counties, those who stage international cricket, were in favour, but could not carry sufficient support from the shires.

The counties did endorse the idea of further research into the contractual situation of international players.

In one area, at least, progress was made. The counties agreed to an immediate reduction of maximum playing staffs from 35 to 30 per club. This will go some way towards clearing out the dead wood of county cricket.

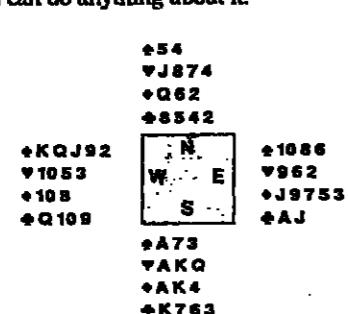
Today's Refresher uses material devised by Brian Senior for the English Bridge Union's Youth Training Scheme. This week, the subject is planning the play. On every hand you should go through the following steps:

**SHEEHAN on BRIDGE**

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Today's Refresher uses material devised by Brian Senior for the English Bridge Union's Youth Training Scheme. This week, the subject is planning the play. On every hand you should go through the following steps:

- 1) How many tricks do you need?
- 2) Count your existing tricks.
- 3) What is the deficit?
- 4) Where are you going to find the extra tricks?
- 5) Don't be greedy. Consider what could go wrong and see if you can do anything about it.



Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: King of spades

- 1) You need nine tricks.
  - 2) You have eight tricks already.
  - 3) The deficit is one.
  - 4) The extra trick will be the king of clubs if the ace is with East.
  - 5) You need to give up the lead in order to get your nine tricks, so it is important that you sever your opponents' communications by ducking the first two spade leads.
- You must unblock the hearts before crossing to dummy's queen of diamonds otherwise you will not make the jack of hearts which was one of your original eight tricks.
- You must not cash both your top diamonds before crossing to dummy's queen or you may set up too many diamond winners for the defence.
- Any youngsters anxious to improve their game should reserve a place at next summer's EBU Training Camp at Harrow School. Aimed at 15 to 24-year-olds, the camp will run from August 2-9, featuring bridge tuition in the morning, recreational activities in the afternoon and a bridge tournament in the evening for the all-inclusive price of £245 per person.
- Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

- ORIGAMI  
a. Wormlike pasta  
b. A board game  
c. Folding paper
- PUSHMI-PULLYU  
a. A secondary strike  
b. A fabulous llama  
c. Korean tug-of-war over the imjin

- RAVIGOTE  
a. A herb sauce  
b. A dance  
c. An Empire armchair
- PENSTOCK  
a. Breeding fowl  
b. Pipes  
c. To corral

Answers on page 53

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Strategic genius

I conclude my coverage of the important tournament at Belgrade with a win by Vassily Ivanchuk which demonstrates immense breadth of strategic vision. It appeared at first sight that with both players castling on opposite wings there would be a race as to whose attack first broke through.

Instead, Ivanchuk launched a surprise counterattack on the queenside, where he had initially appeared most vulnerable, set Black up in that sector and only reverted to his kingside onslaught for the final stages of the game.

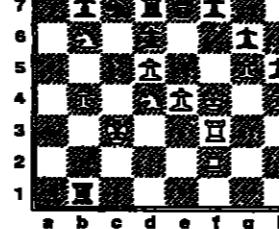
In order for this strategy to succeed Ivanchuk had to make imaginative use of his king in both an aggressive and defensive posture while simultaneously exerting careful control over any possible tactical counter strokes by Black.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk  
Black: Alexander Belovskiy  
Belgrade, November 1997

Old Indian Defence

- 1 e4 e5
- 2 d4 Nf6
- 3 c4 Bb4
- 4 Nf3 0-0
- 5 d5 Nbd7
- 6 c5 c6
- 7 Nc3 Nf6
- 8 Nf3 Nbd5
- 9 c6 Nf6
- 10 Nbc3 Nf6
- 11 b3 h6
- 12 0-0 Bg5
- 13 g4 Bxg3
- 14 Qe2 Nf6
- 15 Ng3 a5
- 16 h4 Bg4
- 17 Kb2 axb3

## Diagram of final position



Grand prix

Leicester grandmaster Mark Hebden has achieved a record-equalling maximum 200 points in the 2003 Leigh Grand Prix, the year-long league for British congress players. Hebden matched Michael Adams's 1992 record at the Scarborough Open.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Speelman — Short, Candidates Match (game 3), London 1988. White is the exchange ahead but Black is hanging on grimly and is trying to drive the white queen away. What is White's most incisive response?

Solution on page 53

## Academy hand out a lesson

FROM JOHN STERN  
IN CAPE TOWN

THE ENGLAND Under-19 team have four more days' cricket before the first international match against South Africa Under-19 next week and they will hope that all are more fruitful than yesterday.

The resistance they encountered from the Western Cape Academy's lower order, who resumed on 134 for six, was frustrating enough, but the England batting collapse that followed must have been acutely embarrassing. England finished the day on 119 for eight, in reply to Western Cape's 262 all out and have only just avoided being asked to follow on.

England were stymied by Kane Williamson, who remained unbeaten on 77, having reached his fifty from 110 balls.

England started solidly, but Stephen Peters, the Essex opening batsman, fell to an excellent catch by Williamson at short leg of Nicholas Kruger, and his partner Robert Key, of Kent, was bowled three balls later without playing a shot.

Ian Flanagan, the left-hander, and Graeme Swann calmed the waters briefly, adding 50 for the third wicket.

W PROVINCE ACADEMY XI: First Innings

- 1 N Kruger lbw to Logue
- 2 D Botha lbw to Logue
- 3 D Botha c Logue b Kruger
- 4 A Hanekom c Peters b Scholtens
- 5 A Hanekom not out
- 6 A Hanekom c Peters b Scholtens
- 7 A Hanekom not out
- 8 A Hanekom c Peters b Scholtens
- 9 A Hanekom run out
- 10 S Connell lbw to Logue
- 11 N Kruger run out
- 12 N Kruger not out
- 13 D Botha lbw to Logue
- 14 D Botha lbw to Logue
- 15 D Botha lbw to Logue
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RACING: FAVOURITE BACKERS COUNT COST AS ZARALASKA FAILS TO JUSTIFY CONFIDENCE

# Wahiba Sands taxes old certainties

By CHRIS MCGRATH

NOTHING is certain, according to Benjamin Franklin, except death and taxes. No matter how eloquently their own experience tells them otherwise, punters will persist in trying to add the occasional horse to that brief list. Franklin's shad was no doubt at Leicester yesterday, knowingly shaking its head, to witness the defeat of Zaralaska at odds of 5-1 on.

A winner at the royal meeting, Zaralaska had made a dramatic impression when returning to Ascot for his first start over timber 13 days ago. His natural aptitude for hur-



Wahiba Sands survives an untidy jump at the last hurdle to eclipse Zaralaska at Leicester yesterday

dling put many people in mind of Alderbrook, a similar sort on the Flat before winning the 1995 Champion Hurdle — not least bookmakers, who quoted Zaralaska as low as 1-1 to emulate that success at Cheltenham in March.

There were those perplexed to find him contesting yesterday's *lowlly* Novices' Hurdle, particularly in view of a history of training problems on the Flat. Few, however, could have envisaged that he would encounter a new, insurmountable problem in the

shape of Wahiba Sands, a rare runner over hurdles for John Dunlop.

Restrained off a slow early pace by Adrian Maguire, Zaralaska again jumped slickly before moving into contention turning for home. His every move, however, was shadowed by Tony McCoy on Wahiba Sands, himself a decent handicapper on the level and receiving 7lb.

David Nicholson, Zara-

laska's trainer, said: "They've gone to gallop and it turned into a sprint. But he has jumped well and will now go to Kempton for the novice hurdle on Boxing Day."

Dunlop, detained at Tattersalls Sales, missed his first National Hunt winner, but Wahiba Sands is apparently heading to Ascot on December 20. Coral expects more of the same there, having replaced

head of the Triumph Hurdle betting.

Somewhat, life is never so straightforward for his rivals. Steve Brookshaw, the trainer of Lord Gyllene, yesterday confirmed that the Martell Grand National winner will miss the whole season because of his leg injury.

Happy, the return of another hobbling Aintree hero remains imminent — despite Terry Casey, trainer of Rough Quest, reporting a further setback yesterday. "He has bruised the sole of his off-side," Casey said. "There's no way he can run at Chepstow on Saturday, but he should be able to run the following weekend."

Rough Quest could now resurface in the Tommy White Chase at Haydock — a race that has not yet been dismissed for Simply Dashing,

despite his prominence in betting on the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day. With equivocal noises about Kempton also emerging from the Sun Bay camp, punters

wishing to oppose One Man yesterday resorted to Barton Bank. Coral go 8-1 from 12-1 over the old warrior.

Another such, Major Dick Hern, was back in the winner's enclosure at Windsor yesterday. Hern, who only recently handed in his training licence, emerged among the partnership that owns George Bull — 20-1 winner of the Spatial Novices' Hurdle (Division II), and bred by his wife, Sheila.

George Bull outbattled Better Offer, who had been sent off at 3-1 on. It was not much of a day for the credulous punter. Remember: death and taxes.

## Murphy handed 30-day whip ban

TIMMY MURPHY, who has enjoyed a splendid start to his new job with Paul Nicholls, was yesterday brought to earth by a 30-day suspension for persistent whip offences (Chris McGrath writes).

Under the "tutting up" procedure, Murphy was automatically referred to the Jockey Club disciplinary committee for his treatment of Bramblehill Buck at Newton Abbot on November 18, having already served 15 days in whip ban over the previous 12 months. Ten days of the ban, which starts on Tuesday, have been suspended for six months, but Murphy misses the ride on Belmont King in the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow on December 27.

Murphy, 23, has shown himself an accomplished jockey in riding 30 winners this season, in the process restoring lost momentum to his career. But his visit to Portman Square yesterday must prompt him to accept the need for some refinement.

"Timmy has put his hands up and admitted he was wrong," Nicholls said. "But there is no way Bramblehill Buck was injured after Newton Abbot. I got my vet to look at the horse the next day and he confirmed he was 100 per cent."

The in-form trainer intends to give his inexperienced back-up riders, Joe Tizzard and Liam Cummins, plenty of opportunities during Murphy's absence, but senior replacements are likely to be sought at Chepstow for Belmont King and What a Hand.

Alan Hughes-Rowlands has recovered from illness, and will be back for Cannock, who lead the table, one point ahead of Southgate and East Grinstead.

Cannock are at home tomorrow to Barford Tigers, whom they defeated 4-1 earlier this season. On Sunday, they visit Doncaster who have put behind them the memory of their 8-1 defeat by Cannock and are playing with renewed confidence, having reached the quarter-finals of the EHA Cup.

Alan Stoves, the Doncaster player-coach, said yesterday that his team had learnt valuable lessons, and would be ready for Cannock's sharpshooters. "On paper, everyone would expect them to beat us, but they lost 6-1 to Canterbury, and we lost 4-3," he said.

Canterbury, who are not short of sharpshooters themselves, will be the team to watch this weekend as they attempt to elevate themselves from fourth position with matches against Old Lough-tonians and Guildford. Both matches are away from home.

## Five enjoy famous adventure

By CATHY HARRIS

THE five England players who refused to leave Leicester when they were relegated from the premier division last season, have played a leading role in maintaining the club's unbeaten record at the top of the first division. Victory over Wimbledon tomorrow would enable them to move in to the winter break exactly where they planned to be.

The decision by the Olympian Jo Mould, Sarah Blanks, Purdy Miller and the teenagers, Carol Voss and Kirsty Bowden, was heavily criticised. Doubts were expressed about their ability to compete at the top level without playing against England's best, and with the World Cup just over five months away, there was concern about whether they could adjust to take on the world's elite.

Yet the bold move by young players appears to have been vindicated. Maggie Swayne, the England coach, said: "I'm happy with the decision this year," before adding: "if you take five players out of a club it can destroy it. But if they don't earn promotion, players who aspire to international hockey will have to think very carefully about their future."

Bowden, 19, is one of the brightest young talents in the game and the midfield player is certain to be included in the World Cup squad. A law student at Birmingham University, she believes the club did not deserve to be relegated.

"We didn't perform to our potential and got in to a losing trend," she said. "We all wanted to stay and get the side back up and we've all taken on more responsibility."

Three points clear of their nearest rivals, Canterbury, the club have their sights set on an immediate return, according to Kevin Blanks, their manager. "We may have five internationals but the whole squad has achieved our results. Playing Wimbledon won't be easy because they are batters but at the beginning of the season we aimed to win every game. We're on course."

### SANDOWN PARK

**THUNDERER**  
1.00 Golden Eagle  
1.30 Bengers Moor  
2.05 Cherrynut

**GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)**

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

**1.00 DECEMBER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE**

(£3,152; 2m 11f) (21 runners)

1.01 422-1 DINES 27 (G) (T) (C) (P) (H) (M) (S) 5-1-4 T. J. Murphy 111-10  
1.02 423-2 GOLDEN EAGLE 26 (G) (T) (C) (P) (H) (M) (S) 5-1-4 T. J. Murphy 111-10  
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1.04 425-4 BORODINO 303 (S) (P) (C) 5-1-4 T. J. Murphy 111-10  
1.05 426-5 CHICAGO CITY 26 (G) (T) (C) (P) (H) (M) (S) 5-1-4 T. J. Murphy 111-10  
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# WORLD CUP 98

# **WHO PLAYS WHOM**



## **WHERE AND WHEN**



#### **THE TEAMS AND THE VENUES**

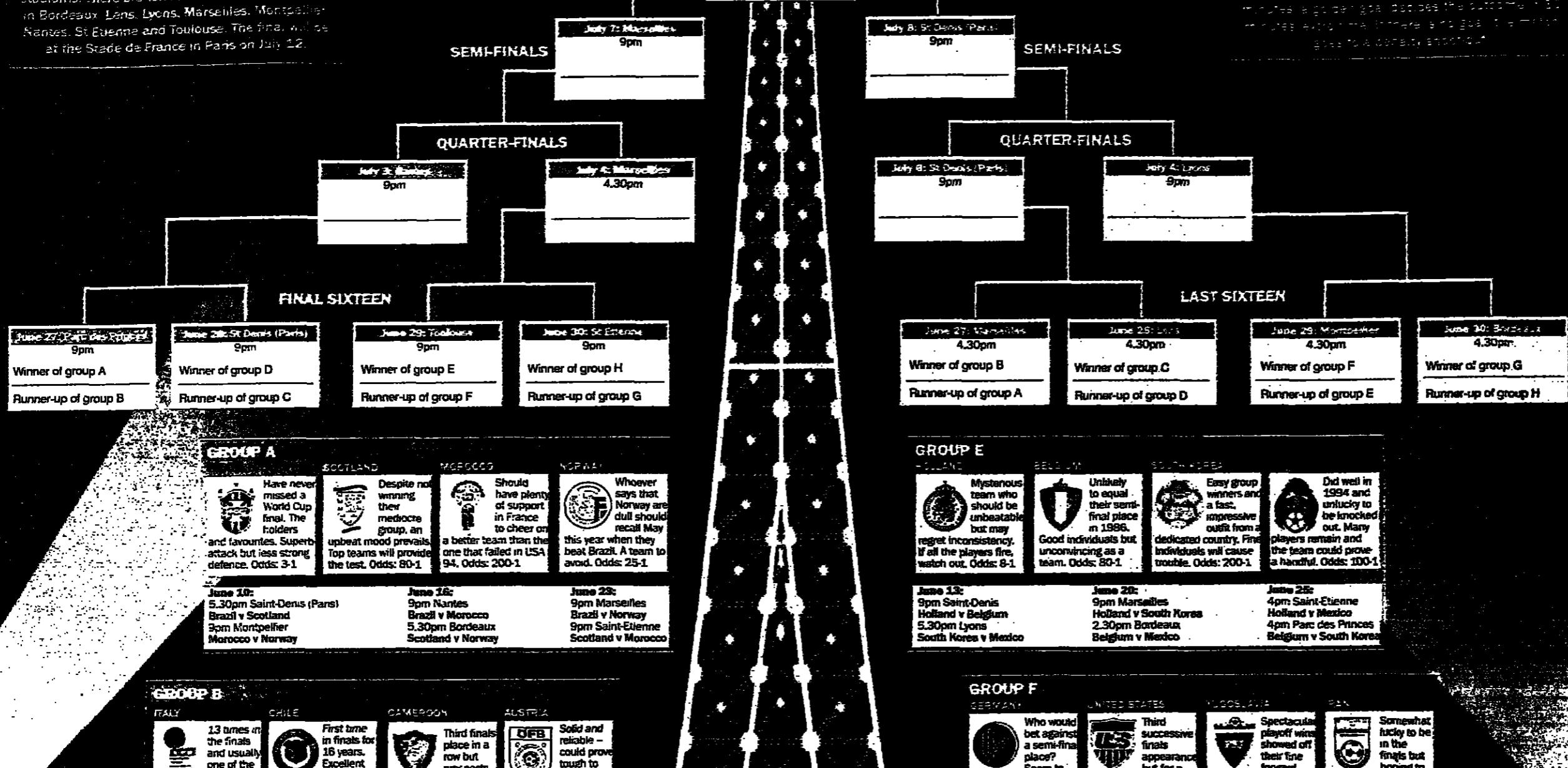
TEAMS

The 1998 World Cup will be the biggest yet with 32 teams competing in 64 matches. Europe plays 16 places (including France, the hosts), Africa five, South America five (including Brazil, the holders), Asia four, and three from north and central America.

#### **VENUES AND DATES**

**VENUES AND DATES**  
The first ball is kicked off June 10. For the first time, teams will play all their group matches in different stadiums. There are ten in all: two in Paris and one in Bordeaux, Lens, Lyons, Marseilles, Montpellier, Nantes, St Etienne and Toulouse. The final will be at the Stade de France in Paris on July 12.

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#### HOW THE TEAMS PROGRESS

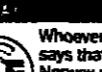
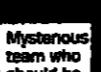
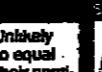
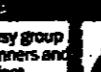
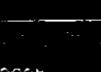
GROUP STAGE

The two teams, each of the eight players, and all the knockout stages.

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#### **POINTS SYSTEM**

22445

June 27: Saint-Denis (Paris) 9pm	June 28: St Denis (Paris) 8pm	June 29: Toulouse 8pm	June 30: St Etienne 8pm	July 1: Montpellier 4.30pm	July 2: Lens 4.30pm	July 3: Montreuil 4.30pm	July 4: Brest v Luxembourg 4.30pm
Winner of group A	Winner of group D	Winner of group E	Winner of group H	Winner of group B	Winner of group C	Winner of group F	Winner of group G
Runner-up of group B	Runner-up of group C	Runner-up of group F	Runner-up of group G	Runner-up of group A	Runner-up of group D	Runner-up of group E	Runner-up of group H
<b>GROUP A</b>							
 <b>SCOTLAND</b> Have never missed a World Cup final. The holders and favourites. Superb attack but less strong defence. Odds: 3-1	 <b>MOROCCO</b> Despite not winning their mediocre group, an upbeat mood prevails. Top teams will provide the test. Odds: 80-1	 <b>NORWAY</b> Should have plenty of support in France to cheer on a better team than the one that failed in USA 94. Odds: 200-1	 <b>BRAZIL</b> Whoever says that Norway are dull should recall May this year when they beat Brazil. A team to avoid. Odds: 25-1	 <b>IRELAND</b> Mysterious team who should be unbeatable but may regret inconsistency. If all the players fire, watch out. Odds: 8-1	 <b>BELGIUM</b> Unlikely to equal their semi-final place in 1996. Good individuals but unconvincing as a team. Odds: 80-1	 <b>SOUTH KOREA</b> Easy group winners and a fast, impressive outfit from a dedicated country. Fine individuals will cause trouble. Odds: 200-1	 <b>MEXICO</b> Did well in 1994 and unlucky to be knocked out. Many players remain and the team could prove a handful. Odds: 100-1
June 10: 5.30pm Saint-Denis (Paris) Brazil v Scotland 8pm Montpellier Morocco v Norway	June 16: 8pm Nantes Brazil v Morocco 5.30pm Bordeaux Scotland v Norway	June 23: 9pm Marseilles Brazil v Norway 9pm Saint-Etienne Scotland v Morocco	June 13: 8pm Saint-Denis Holland v Belgium 5.30pm Lyons South Korea v Mexico	June 20: 8pm Marseilles Holland v South Korea 2.30pm Bordeaux Belgium v Mexico	June 25: 4pm Saint-Etienne Holland v Mexico 4pm Paris des Princes Belgium v South Korea		
<b>GROUP B</b>							
 <b>ITALY</b> 13 times in the finals and usually one of the	 <b>CHILE</b> First time in finals for 16 years. Excellent	 <b>CAMEROON</b> Third finals place in a row but now poor	 <b>AUSTRIA</b> Solid and reliable - could prove tough to beat	 <b>GERMANY</b> Who would bet against a semi-final place? Favoured	 <b>UNITED STATES</b> Third successive finals appearance but few fans	 <b>YUGOSLAVIA</b> Spectacular playoff wins showed off their fine teamwork	 <b>PANAMA</b> Somewhat lucky to be in the finals but beginning to

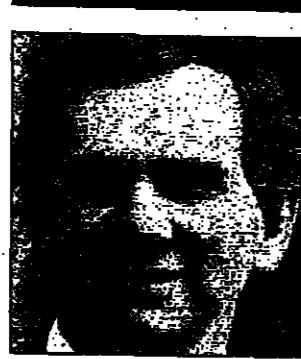
Spain  
test  
nerve  
hard at

**Beckham  
approves  
of new bid**

# WORLD CUP 98

## Spain face test of nerve in hard draw

ROB HUGHES



IT IS an uncommon wind that blows nobody any ill. The *mistral*, that had gusted through Marseilles belatedly for the World Cup draw and yet left its mark on the scattered seeds. Those who will be pleased must include Argentina and Italy, two giants of World Cup history who have the closest thing to what can be described as easy groups in which to play.

Germany, the perennials of European representation, may not be ecstatic at facing a resurgent Yugoslav nation, but they should dispose of the United States and Iran.

Yes, America versus the country that, politically, nobody thought it was ready to play. But, politics aside for the moment, if the hosts France have also a comparatively gentle opening group, and Holland see nothing to fear... where lies the vaunted "Group of Death" that everyone wanted to sidestep?

It is, appropriately, group D – Spain, Nigeria, Paraguay and Bulgaria. For two to fall from that quartet is indeed a test of nerve and courage and Spain, which has built up a promising and resolute squad, must now face the music. Bulgaria are always underestimated, always wily and ready to damage somebody; Hristo Stoichkov, who keeps retiring and changing his mind, will probably lead his country with malice aforethought in terms of damaging Spain, the country where, occasionally, he plays for Barcelona. The Paraguayans, without an outstanding striker but cunningly organised by a Brazilian coach, will be nobody's fools.

And Nigeria? Once they find a coach, and if their interfering government gives them time and opportunity to prepare, who says that this African nation of almost 100 million people will not reveal the force, the pace, the extraordinary skills that won the 1996 Olympic title?

How thrilling it was to see Nwankwo Kanu, the young captain of that Olympic side, in the Stade Velodrome last night. The chill wind rugged at his neck, he looked cold, but he wore the smile of a man who has come back after undergoing surgery for a heart complaint that doctors initially said would mean a sedentary life.

Those who look for the easy life have no place in France'

from David Trezeguet in Europe this season and France will test him out in good time for the tournament.

With or without him, France should prevail against the determined, but physical, South Africans, a Denmark team that is not of the opportunist calibre of the 1992 European champions, and Saudi Arabia, who can be neat and technically proficient.

And if Scotland only have to take on Brazil in the opening game, if England register quiet satisfaction at the task of smothering the Colombian octopus, Faustino Asprilla, where in the world is there reason to enter a sporting contest with anything other than combative relish?

Be thankful that the English supporters, understandably fearful of being fenced in after the 96 deaths against the railings of Hillsborough eight years ago, have avoided, at least in round one, the two grounds (St Etienne and Nantes) which still have those cages. Be thankful too, that there is no political influence, as undoubtedly there is facing the American goalkeeper, Kasey Keller. He gulped when his country drew Germany for starters. "Just what you want," he observed ironically, "the perennial powerhouse of World Cup soccer. Still, it's in Paris that should be nice."

Keller took a second deep breath when Iran became an opponent. "Interesting political line-up," he said laconically. There had been, leading up to the last World Cup in America, all manner of political threats to exclude Iran, had those

been made, albeit in terms of damaging Spain, the country where, occasionally, he plays for Barcelona. The Paraguayans, without an outstanding striker but cunningly organised by a Brazilian coach, will be nobody's fools.

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Those who look for the easy life have no place in France'



Waving the flag: the World Cup draw ceremony gets under way in Marseilles yesterday

## Overblown ceremony both tacky and unnecessary

Simon Barnes bemoans

the fuss and hype surrounding what ought to be a simple exercise

I was the morning of the fag-paper that was a day too far. The lead picture on *The Times* sports pages was a fat old man wearing a suit. He was holding up a fag-paper. On the fag-paper was the laconic, brutally enigmatic message: "Brazil".

World Cups are good, at least, they are if you like football. And if you hold a World Cup, you obviously have to decide who plays whom, where they do so, and when. So some kind of draw is necessary. I am prepared to go that far down the road with the fag-paper carriers of this world.

But how long does it take to draw 32 names from a hat? Those of us who used to listen to FA Cup draws at Monday lunch-time, in the days when football did not drop its knickers every time a television camera was sighted on the horizon, know perfectly well that it takes about five minutes.

Within that modest time-span, a performance of dignity, and one not without mystery, can be organised. So how long has it taken Fifa and the French organisers to draw 32 names? About a week.

Big story of the first day: will England be seeded? Big story of the second day: England are not seeded. Disaster!

This really matters. It is really serious. And perhaps if so-and-so fail to win their group on goal difference, that could mean that England have to play them as early as the round of 16! That's if they get that far! How perfectly frightful that would be!

We are deep into Emperor's-new-clothes territory here. Because it is

interesting to know who is going to play whom, but it doesn't matter. A tough draw is often an advantage. You win World Cups by getting on a roll, not by having an easy draw. Something happens to a team around the third group game and the first knockout game. Suddenly they are rocket-fuel.

That is more likely to be the result of winning tough, and winning ugly, than of swallowing a Concacaf münnow. England's intriguing draw could be disaster – too hard, too soft, or just right.

As for Scotland, they invariably play better against Brazil than against Costa Rica. It is not the draw that matters: but how you play football. More precisely, how a team grows in the course of the tournament.

But football, like all sport, is suffused with its own self-importance. When the World Cup starts, football will seriously believe that it is the most important thing on the planet. So now the draw is being held: and they try to tell us that is the most important thing on the planet.

Sport and its media coverage is increasingly full of Not Sport. Cheats, money, politics, attempts to buy governments, that sort of thing. There is no help for it as sport grows daily, almost hourly.

richer and more powerful. But for some bizarre reason, the world has been conned into an increasing love of Not Sport. The honest ticket at the last Olympic Games was not the men's 100 metres final but the opening ceremony. Never mind something sublime and unique: I want something tacky and samey, please.

The World Cup draw has become the opening ceremony's opening ceremony: a tacky unnecessary prelude to a tacky unnecessary prelude. Not Sport has been taken a stage further. Pelé received his quadrennial snub. And 38,000 people turned up to watch it all. Were they mad?

The final hour of the draw itself was perfectly conceived as the world's most uninteresting piece of television.

It was interminable. What is more, gratuitously interminable. Spinning out a mildly interesting five minutes into a full hour does not give you a mildly interesting hour. It makes you fed up with the whole thing before it starts.

There is truth and beauty to be found in sport: but it can only be found in action. And that is harder and harder to find in the floodwaters of Not Sport. Even television prefers action replay to action.

Sport mislays its pith and momentum, and loses the name of action. This week has brought us footballing megalomaniac *ad absurdum*. Moral: any footballing occasion that snubs Pelé is not worth an intelligent person's time. Certainly not a full week of it.

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## Global affair has become blown out of all proportion

BRIAN GLANVILLE



on the history of a grandiose tradition

THERE was, alas, no Robin Williams to puncture the pomposity of the World Cup draw in Marseilles last night. Four years ago, Fifa, in its starstruck folly, decided to hold the draw in Las Vegas, deluded perhaps by the city's claim to be "the entertainment capital of America".

Unlike New York, whose claims for such a title were surely stronger, Las

Vegas had no tradition or connection with football. The occasion was marred from the start by the spiteful decision of Fifa's ineffable president, João Havelange, to exclude Pelé from the draw, because he had been suing Havelange's son-in-law, Ricardo Teixeira, the President of the Brazilian Football Federation. Pelé, in his habitual white suit, entered the hall just the same.

Various noisy singers performed, then Williams skipped up to help with the draw. "Wonderful to meet you," he greeted the bemused Fifa secretary, Sepp Blatter, "after feeling you all these years." He then put his hand in the drum and announced: "Ah panty-hose!" Next day, an American journalist wrote that Blatter's ideal future was quite clearly as a straight man.

These grandiose presentations do seem to have their elements of farce. When the ceremony took place in Rome, in 1989, the presiding showbusiness lady seemed to have little awareness of what she was doing. But then, over the years, the World Cup has become an increasingly grandiose, not to say over-populated, event.

It is astonishing to reflect that only 13 of the invited 16 teams competed in Brazil in 1950. Argentina, traditionally at odds with Brazilian football, refused to attend, as did Czechoslovakia. France withdrew in protest at the colossal distances they would have to travel. Austria said that their team was too young. In the event, Uruguay, the eventual winners, played only one game in their eliminating pool against Bolivia, which they won 8-0.

Fifa had decreed that the British international championship should act as one of the qualifying groups, the top two teams being admitted to the tournament. Scotland, in a sublime burst of hubris, announced that they would go only if they won the championship.

They did not: England beat them 1-0 at Hampden Park in the decisive match. Billy Wright, the England captain, pleaded with George Young, his opposite number, to persuade the Scotland officials to change their minds, but they were obdurate.

The 1954 tournament in Switzerland had a full complement of teams and, bizarrely, West Germany beat Hungary 3-2 in the final, despite losing to them 8-3 in their first game.

The election of Havelange to the Fifa presidency in 1974 led to the bloating of the competition to 24 teams and next year, in France, to 32. And the World Cup draw has been bloated accordingly.



Ronaldo, who scored twice for the Rest of the World team in their 5-2 victory over Europe, evades a lunging tackle yesterday

## Beckham approves of new ball

By JOHN GOODBODY

FOR France, the World Cup party is ready to begin. With work completed on the new 80,000-seat stadium in Paris, the French are well ahead with their preparations for the sixteenth World Cup finals next summer. Unlike so many international sports events of recent years, there are no evident problems in the financing or building projects for the 32-country tournament, which will be the largest and most publicised in the 68-year history of the competition.

Only the Olympic Games attracts more global interest than the World Cup because football is the national game of most countries. 169 nations entered the qualifying competition for next year's final. The World Cup owes a particular debt to France, which last staged the event in 1938, eight years after the first tournament in 1930 when only 13 countries entered. The tournament was created by a Frenchman, Jules Rimet, who gave his name to the first trophy, which

## French polish for football's biggest feast

ON MONDAY IN THE TIMES

A free 16-page guide to the World Cup

Finals, including how, where and when to watch matches in France and the prospects of the 32 contenders

was won for the third time and thus outright by Brazil in 1970.

To delight television viewers across the world, there will be two opening ceremonies. The first will be in Paris on June 9. This will be a colourful parade, led by five giant models, representing the five continents, through the streets of the capital. The models will finally assemble in the Place de la Concorde, close to the River Seine, with its view up the Champs-Elysées to the Arc de Triomphe.

The next day, there will be another ceremony at the new Stade de France in St Denis in northern Paris, which will stage its first international on January 28 when France meet Spain in a friendly. The stadium is on the other side of the capital from the 49,700-capacity Parc des Princes, built in 1972 and replacing it as the French national stadium. However, the Parc des Princes will still be used for matches during the World Cup.

The World Cup owes a particular debt to France, which last staged the event in 1938, eight years after the first tournament in 1930 when only 13 countries entered. The tournament was created by a Frenchman, Jules Rimet, who gave his name to the first trophy, which

stage gets under way. In previous tournaments, the teams have often been able to stay at one hotel close to those stadiums, which have staged all their early matches. However, this time many of the countries are planning to be based near Paris and move round the country, either by bus or plane. The organisers' chief problem will be the transport and housing of the supporters, particularly in the knockout rounds.

The nine cities which will hold matches are Paris, Marseilles with its 60,000-seat velodrome stadium, Lyon, Nantes, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Lens, St Etienne and Toulouse. Lyon has the smallest capacity with seats for only 32,000 spectators.

The Stade de France, the most modern stadium in Europe, will host nine matches in the championship, including the final. It has been closely studied by architects hoping to get the contract for the design for the rebuilding of Wembley, which England hopes to use as the centrepiece of a World Cup in the 21st century.

## Ronaldo grabs the limelight

RONALDO gave the world an indication of what it can expect from Brazil next summer by scoring twice in the Rest of the World's 5-2 victory over Europe in the World Cup gala match in Marseilles yesterday. The world's most expensive footballer, valued at £20 million, was irrepressible as he set up the Rest of the World's other three goals.

Paul Ince, the England midfield player, and Scotland's Gordon Durie, who came on in the second half, played for a Europe team that took the lead through Mario Lucatini of Romania, in the second minute. Ronaldo created goals for Antony De Avila of Colombia, and two for Gabriel Batistuta of Argentina. Zinedine Zidane, of France, pulled a goal back on the hour.

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND SEEK TO END AUTUMN SERIES ON WINNING NOTE AT TWICKENHAM

## Healey quick to profit from versatility

AUSTIN HEALEY has not always agreed with Bob Dwyer, his coach at Leicester, but the decision to switch him from scrum half to wing six weeks ago now appears to be a sound investment. Yesterday Healey was named on England's left wing against New Zealand at Twickenham tomorrow. It will be only the second occasion on which he has started a game for his country.

This, with one exception, is the England team that finished the first encounter with the All Blacks at Old Trafford a fortnight ago, though it shows six changes — one positional — from the XV beaten by South Africa last weekend. The exception is Paul Grayson, who replaces the injured Mike Catt at fly half; Grayson will be

partnered by Kyran Bracken, whose greater physical presence at scrum half gives him the slightest of edges over Matt Dawson, Grayson's Northampton team-mate.

England will benefit from the returning experience of Martin Johnson and Phil de Glanville, while David Rees reverts to the right wing to allow for Healey's inclusion. Clive Woodward, the coach, was in no doubt about the issue central to Healey's selection: he brings more pace than either John Bentley or Adeyayo Adebayo and, for one who has the reputation as a Jack the Lad, Healey has impressed with his attitude recently.

"He is a genuine footballer and he has been outstanding in training," Woodward said. "He deserves his place on

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

merit and I think he is starting to believe that what has happened in Leicester has been good for him. We have two outstanding guys at No 9 and Austin realises that."

Healey, one of the three British Isles scrum halves to tour South Africa during the summer, found himself restored to his old Watford role

Orrell position by the arrival at Welford Road of Waisale Serevi, whom Dwyer has accommodated at scrum half.

Healey has not only his speed to recommend him, but his tackling and his footwork. Phil Larder, the former rugby league coach, who is now working with Woodward, believes that Healey and Neil Back are the most destructive defenders in the England squad and that Healey has the qualities required to play at fly half.

"If we are genuinely going to compete, we need real gas in the team," Woodward said. "It will fall, though, to Rees to mark Jonah Lomu for the second time; at Old Trafford he made a decent fist of it, even if the contest sometimes re-

sembled a giant endeavouring to swat an annoying fly.

Bentley and Adeyayo, the two disappointed wings, will know precisely their future after the autumn series, since Woodward intends to draw up a pecking order for each position. "I want to let the players know where they stand," Woodward said. "We have seen the best players these southern-hemisphere sides have had, and, after this weekend, I can be brutally honest about which of our players have the best chance of staying in the squad, regardless of reputations.

"We know the criteria needed to beat these guys. We are not in the first division, but I think we can get there. The feedback from the players has been great. They all have a glint in their eye, they know

what it takes to win at this level. It's easier to put in a one-off performance; to put in four in a row has made it very clear what has to happen for England to succeed. If we had played weaker countries, I might have been overconfident about our real strength."

Overconfidence is not a New Zealand trait and the loss of Sean Fitzpatrick from most of yesterday's tour was followed by the withdrawal of Craig Dowd, his colleague in the Auckland front row, who has a hamstring injury.

Fitzpatrick will make no decision about his playing future until April, but there are fears that the damage to his right knee and cumulative wear-and-tear will prove too much, even for this hugely competitive player to return to the international arena.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Chaloner keeps his cool to down Eyles

■ SQUASH: Mark Chaloner, of England, recorded the best victory of his career yesterday when he defeated the world champion, Roddy Eyles, of Australia, 15-10, 10-15, 10-15, 15-9, 15-10 to reach the semi-finals of the Mahindra International Challenge at the Cricket Club of India, Bombay (Colin McQuillan writes).

Chaloner, ranked No 14 in the world, handled the extreme humidity better than the 30-year-old Australian, who wilted as the match progressed. Chaloner, 25, of Lincolnshire, said: "I am fitter than most other players and used to pushing myself beyond anything. The conditions here impose just on themselves."

He will meet Peter Nicol, of Scotland, the second-seeded champion, who defeated Simon Parke, the England No 1, in a fast, subtle and highly entertaining match, 17-15, 15-9, 15-11. Jansher Khan, the world No 1, appeared lethargic in defeating Derek Ryan, of Ireland, 15-8, 15-9, 15-8.

### New partner for Offiah

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: London Broncos yesterday signed John Timu, 27, the former All Black full-back and centre, from the Sydney-based Canterbury Bulldogs (Christopher Irvine writes). Timu was capped on 21 occasions between 1989 and 1994. The dual-code international will team up at the Stoop Memorial Ground next season with Martin Offiah, in what Tony Currie, the London coach, described as the "most potent centre-wing combination" in the world.

"John is a devastating runner and playmaker," Currie said. "His arrival provides us with an awesome combination with Martin that should have most teams worried."

### Green light for White

■ SNOOKER: Jimmy White, an ever-present at the Benson and Henson Masters since 1982, has been awarded the sponsor's wild card to compete in this season's event at Wembley Conference Centre in February.

White, who will meet Stephen Lee in the first round of the £535,000 tournament, was forced to rely upon an invitation after being relegated from the top 16 players in the world at the end of the 1996-97 campaign and failing to win the Benson and Hedges championship.

### Clarke still the top man

■ CYCLING: Barrie Clarke, Team Raleigh's national cyclo-cross champion, remains the top rider in the latest British rankings list with a total of 575 points, a lead of 135 from Stuart Blunt. Steve Knight is third, a further five points behind. Clarke leads Britain's team of Blunt, Carl Sturgeon, James Norfolk and Martin Seddon in tomorrow's third round of the World Cup competition near Milan and will miss the South of England championship at Southampton, one of five home regional title races, on Sunday.

### No progress for Pierce

■ TENNIS: Anke Huber, right, from Germany, beat Mary Pierce 6-3, 6-2 in the masters of champions women's tournament in Frankfurt yesterday to end the French woman's prospects of progress to the semi-finals on Saturday.

Pierce had been beaten by Martina Hingis, the world No 1 from Switzerland, in her first match. In the other group, Iva Majoli, of Croatia, beat Irina Spirlea, of Romania, 6-3, 7-5 yesterday.



### Roy Kivell dies

■ BOWLS: Roy Kivell, the immediate past president of the World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC), died in Exeter yesterday. Kivell, 77, had attended a meeting of the WIBC in London on Wednesday. A legend in the sport, he joined the Exonia club at West Bromwich, won his first titles before he was 21, and made his first appearance for England on grass in 1947, when he was 27. He made 66 outdoor appearances for his country, collecting 22 caps.

### GOLF

### Montgomerie soon out of the running

THERE was little joy for a

As Scotland's chances recede, the captain has been sung by suggestions that there are those in the squad who regard this match as a good one to miss. Clearly, however, the selection of the other seven forwards who faced Australia is not so much a vote of confidence as a gamble that they will attempt to find reserves that they themselves did not know.

South Africa, too, had to make a late change after a knee injury forced the fly half, Henry Hornbill, to withdraw yesterday. He is replaced by Adam Roxburgh, his deputy in the No 6 jersey, had suf-

fered concussion and would be sidelined for the mandatory three weeks.

As Scotland's chances recede, the captain has been sung by suggestions that there are those in the squad who regard this match as a good one to miss. Clearly, however, the selection of the other seven forwards who faced Australia is not so much a vote of confidence as a gamble that they will attempt to find reserves that they themselves did not know.

"Having the lead is a positive in that it means I'm playing well," Mickelson said, "but I don't want to get overly excited about it."

Mickelson, 27, found that a combination of the swirling wind and the hot air at altitude made club selection difficult. Jesper Parnevik, of Sweden, had a round of 70 and Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, a 71.

**John Hopkins finds the New Zealand coach in talkative mood before the game with England**

The Old Trafford scenes after the match, the Martin Johnson incident, the business about the haka, the Paul Ackford criticism. That's all negative. We don't need that sort of thing to get us motivated. We have won 11 Tests against the best teams in the world this year. Our motivation comes from within. It is self-driven."

Thus spoke John Hart, the New Zealand coach, early yesterday morning. His enthusiasm lit up the darkness that had not yet lifted outside the window. Hart was bubbling over as he talked about the game against England at Twickenham tomorrow.

"It is Zinzan Brooke's hundredth game as an All Black. Old Brown's fifteenth game for New Zealand. Sean Fitzpatrick, one of the great New Zealand captains, not being able to play — these are the things that motivate us. We owe it to the heritage of what we have done to play well. We owe it to the heritage of the jersey."

Hart, 52, may have scored a try in his first game of rugby and played for Auckland, his province, as a feisty scrum half, but it was when he turned to coaching that he began to make people sit up and take notice. Twice he was rejected for the All Blacks job before succeeding at his third attempt, on the day of his 50th birthday. Since then the All Blacks have played 22 Test matches and lost one.

Recently, Hart spent two hours with Alex Ferguson, the



The New Zealand players listen intently as Hart holds court during training at Bracknell Rugby Club yesterday

Manchester United manager, talking coaching, talking about staying ahead, talking management techniques. Indeed, talk is the abiding memory of Hart, his conversation resembling a rushing stream.

Yet Normal rugby words, such as prop, kick, gain-line and angles of running are not mentioned. Were it not for his shiny shirt and its logo of a New Zealand beer company, he could have been a management consultant, pausing for a pot of tea and a slice of toast on his way to sort out the problems.

So it was management tech-

niques: not a rugby manual that enabled him to become the first New Zealander to coach an All Black team to victory in South Africa. He started coaching the All Blacks after working as head of human resources for New Zealand's biggest company.

When Hart puts on his glasses, his cheery, round face becomes slightly owlish. He looks like a management-type. At these moments there is nothing to suggest that he comes from the land where there are more sheep than people, where almost every former All Black coach has been a former All Black or a

farmer; and sometimes both. "My deficiencies as a player have helped me in my coaching," Hart said. "It's a strength, not a weakness, not to have been an All Black. My experiences in business were the most beneficial experiences to me as a rugby coach. A lot of the techniques I learned there I translated into rugby."

In his mid-20s, Hart led the negotiating team to resolve an industrial dispute over redundancies that had closed the Mangere Bridge in Auckland for 25 years. "My job was to build a relationship with the unions and then the workforce," he said. "We had to

employ the people who had previously been on the job — hardened riggers, welders, men who had put a picket on the bridge for 30 months, who were fighting for their livelihood, and get them on our side.

"I did it by building relationships by trust, demonstrating we were genuine in our intentions. It was an example of what can be achieved by common sense, by man-management, by treating people as I wanted to be treated, by being thoughtful. A lot of the things I learned from that time were important to me for coaching."

## Auckland announces plans for Blackheath

THE link-up between the world's best and world's oldest rugby union clubs became reality yesterday when John Baird and Graham Henry, the acting chief executive and coach of Auckland Blues, revealed their plans for Blackheath (a special correspondent writes). Announcing a £500,000 investment in the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division club, Baird and Henry said that Blackheath could become the Auckland Blues of England within five to seven years.

Henry said: "We are not looking to perform miracles and it will take a season or

two, but there will be changes in the way Blackheath play immediately. The current squad have players capable of first division rugby. It will only need one or two extras to add fat to the bones."

Baird said that Auckland would be sending a few players over to England, but the development of local talent was the key to progress.

"We want to fast-track Blackheath in the world of professional rugby. We will bring our system of development over here. It isn't about money, it is about doing things a better, smarter way, the Auckland way," he said.

## Injured pride spurs Wainwright

BY KEVIN FERRIE

Instead, the qualified doctor, reinstated as captain, explained his recovery in cold medical terms. "I was initially told the heel injury I suffered at the end of October would require a six week lay-off," he said. "However it felt all right last week and when I pushed it there was no problem."

There is little doubt, though, that he forced the issue because the injury-ridden Scots needed him. That declaration was underlined yesterday when Grant McKelvey, the hooker, withdrew. Stewart Campbell, the lock, remains doubtful with a calf problem. McKelvey is replaced by the

Glasgow and West of Scotland captain, Gordon Bullock, who will make his debut. Jim Hay, of Hawick, comes in on the bench. A decision on Campbell will be made today.

All this followed the withdrawal of Alan Tait and James Craig earlier this week and the fact that Scotland's other British Isles forwards, Tom Smith and Doddie Weir, were among those unavailable.

Little wonder then that immediately after the humiliating defeat by Australia last month, Wainwright was visibly disturbed when told that Adam Roxburgh, his deputy in the No 6 jersey, had suf-

fered concussion and would be sidelined for the mandatory three weeks.

As Scotland's chances recede, the captain has been sung by suggestions that there are those in the squad who regard this match as a good one to miss. Clearly, however, the selection of the other seven forwards who faced Australia is not so much a vote of confidence as a gamble that they will attempt to find reserves that they themselves did not know.

South Africa, too, had to make a late change after a knee injury forced the fly half, Henry Hornbill, to withdraw yesterday. He is replaced by Adam Roxburgh, his deputy in the No 6 jersey, had suf-

fered concussion and would be sidelined for the mandatory three weeks.

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# Larger than life — man who made the people happy



Shankly, cast in bronze, towers over Roy Evans.

## FOOTBALL

## Harford left high and dry as Albion seek compensation

By RICHARD HOBSON

WHEN Ray Harford resigned as manager of West Bromwich Albion late on Wednesday evening, he hoped for a smooth passage into a similar job at Queens Park Rangers. Instead, his worst fears were realised yesterday when Albion refused to accept his resignation, claiming that they required six months' notice of his intention to leave.

Albion have taken the stand to help their case for compensation from Rangers rather than in the hope that Harford will change his mind. They say that they will continue to pay Harford's wages and claim that they are not seeking a replacement.

Harford met Tony Hale, the Albion chairman, for less than ten minutes yesterday lunchtime and left without comment, looking even more stony-faced than usual. QPR

cancelled plans to unveil Harford as their new manager in the afternoon and declined to comment on developments.

Earlier, Harford, appointed by Hale just ten months ago, had stressed that his decision was based purely on a wish to be closer to his home in Berkshire. He consistently refused to sign a contract with Albion because of a stipulation that he must live within a 25-mile radius of the ground.

Hale said that he accepted Harford's explanation but felt "very bitter and totally used".

Harford led Albion away from the Nationwide League first division relegation area last season and they are fourth at present. "He was nowhere, and we resurrected his career," Hale said. "I am not letting him get away with it."

John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers Association, believes that the Football League should adopt the Premier League regulation, where compensation is paid inside 28 days when a manager walks out of one club to join another. He described the present position as "vague and loose".

John Trewick, the coach under Harford, is in operating control of Albion's first team squad and will be a strong candidate when the club acknowledge that the managerial position is vacant. Another contender is David Pleat, dismissed by Sheffield Wednesday last month.

Mark Bosnich has been given clearance by Terry Venables, the Australia coach, to play for Aston Villa in the UEFA Cup third-round, second-leg tie against Steaua Bucharest on Tuesday. He will join the rest of the Australia squad for the Fifa-backed Confederation Cup, which begins on December 12, immediately after the game.

Denis Irwin, the Manchester United full-back, could return to competitive action on Boxing Day, against Everton. Irwin, who sustained knee ligament damage in a bad tackle by Paul Boswell, the Feyenoord midfield player, has made a quicker than expected recovery.

## Thomas refuses to be sent to Coventry

MICHAEL THOMAS has declined to join Coventry City. The midfield player, 29, was the subject of an £800,000 bid from the Midlands club, having slipped from the first-team picture at Liverpool (writes David Maddock).

After talks with Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, Thomas decided to remain at Anfield where the England B international has two-and-a-half years to run on a contract worth £15,000 a week.

Thomas, though, accepts that his career at Anfield is over. He is behind Paul Ince, Jamie Redknapp, Oyvind Leonhardsen, Danny Murphy, Jamie Carragher and Jason McAteer for a place in central midfield.

He will move, probably after Christmas, with a return

to London his preference. Thomas supported Tottenham Hotspur, and would relish an opportunity to join them, despite having played for Arsenal.

Spurs are in the market for a midfield player, and Thomas could become the first signing of their new manager, Christian Gross.

Olympique Marseille have inquired about taking Patrick Blondel, of Sheffield Wednesday, back to France. The international full-back moved to England in a £1.5 million deal last summer, but has failed to settle. He could return to his native land if the French club match the original fee.

Middlesbrough have re-signed Jaime Moreno, of Washington DC, on an extended three-month loan.

## FOR THE RECORD

**BASKETBALL**  
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final round: Group C: England 61 Ukraine 55 (at home); Spain 79.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 87 Chicago 97; Detroit 105 Phoenix 103 (OT); Atlanta 102 Milwaukee 93; Denver 88 Seattle 93; Denver 89 Los Angeles Lakers 107; Minnesota 90 Indiana 94; Utah 115 Toronto 86; Vancouver 97; Portland 101; Golden State 67 Cleveland 55.

**CRICKET**  
TOUR MATCH (one day): Lahore: Lahore Gymkhana Club XI 141-5 (Majid Khan 50)

**WORD WATCHING**  
Answers from page 48

**ORIGAMI**  
(c) The Japanese art of folding paper into intricate designs. From the Japanese *ori* (to fold) + *kami* (paper). "The art of origami has been handed down from father to son through countless generations."

**PUSHIME-PULLYOU**

(b) A fabulous creature resembling a llama, but with a head at both ends, invented by Hugh Lofting (1886-1947) in *Dr Dolittle*. Hence (with spelling rationalised), applied adverbially to insolent or ambivalent attitudes or policies. Widely popularised by the film version of *Dr Dolittle* in 1967. "The [Labour] Party's imitation of a Pushime-Pullyou over the European Parliament."

**RAVIGOTE**

(a) Mixed herbs for a French salad dressing. From the French *ravigote* to invigorate. A pick-me-up or stiffener. "The French give the name ravigote to an assemblage of four herbs — tarragon, chervil, chives, fennel — minced small or used as a fagot, and supposed to have a rare faculty of resuscitation."

**PENSTOCK**

(b) A cistern or water pipe or container in the US. "The station is several miles below Niagara Falls, the water being led to the penstocks (the tubes which guide the water to the turbines) by means of a concrete canal from a point above the falls."

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1 Rxf6 Bxf6 2 d7 and Qg8# will be decisive.

division: Livingston 1 East 5/6 0; UNIBOND LEAGUE: Cup: Third round: Gainsborough 4 Eastwood 2.

**DR. MARTENS LEAGUE:** Southern Division: Fareham 3 Weymouth 3.

**RYMAN LEAGUE:** First division: Postlethwaite: Redcar 1; Teesside 1; Darlington 1; Cup: Second round: Darlington 1; Postlethwaite 1.

**SCHOOLS MATCHES:** Bedford & Dunstable ISFA Cup: Ardingly 3; Shoreham 1; Premier League Trophy: 1st round: Solihull 2; Tamworth 1; Thame 2; Farnham 1; Cup: Second round: Croydon 0; Whalley Range 0.

**FA UMBRO TROPHY:** Third qualifying round: Solihull 2; Tamworth 1; Thame 2; Farnham 0; Cup: First round: Wrexham 0; Matlock 0; Westord 5m 5-3 on pens; Rounds 1-2: Wrexham 7m 3-0; 1st semi: Bunting 0; Cambridge City 6; Marthly 3.

**PONTINS FA LEAGUE:** Premier division: Preston 2; Everton 1; First division: Middlesbrough 2; West Bromwich 0; Hull 1; Newcastle 0; Birmingham 1; Bradford 1; Burnley 4; Group 2: Huddersfield 1; Sheffield 1; Chester 2; Group 3: York; Barnsley 1; Group 4: Rotherham 0.

**DUTCH LEAGUE:** MAC Brabec 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 0; Fortuna Sittard 3; Volendam 0; MVV Maassluis 0; AZ 0; FC Wageningen 0; Sparta Rotterdam 3.

**GERMAN CUP:** Third round: SV Meppen 0; SV Lippstadt 0; SV Gelsenkirchen 0; SV Lippstadt 0; 1st semi: Borussia 04 2; Bayer Leverkusen 0; 4-3 on pens; Allemagne 1; Aachen 1; Waldhof Mannheim 1; (ast); Mainz 05 5-4 on pens).

**SPANISH CUP:** Third round, first leg: Recreativo Huete 0; Celta Vigo 1;

**THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP:** Second round: Luton 2; Liverpool 3; Leeds 3; Oldham 2; Coventry 0; Luton 0; Oldham 1; Compton 0; Chelmsford 0; Racing Santander 0; Extremadura 1; Salamanca 0.

**BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP:** Semi-final round: Group A: Flamengo 1; Valencia 0; Group B: Chelsea 2; Liverpool 1; Group C: Juventus 0; Group D: West Ham 0; 1st semi: Juventus 0; Greater Manchester 0; 2nd semi: West Ham 0; 1st final: West Ham 2m 2-1; 2nd final: Juventus 0.

**INTERNATIONAL CUP:** Third round: Oxford 1; Wrexham 0; 1st semi: Wrexham 0; 2nd semi: Cheltenham 0; 1st final: Wrexham 0; 2nd final: Cheltenham 0.

**FA CUP:** Third round: Solihull 2; Tamworth 1; Thame 2; Farnham 0; Cup: First round: Wrexham 0; Matlock 0; Westord 5m 5-3 on pens; Rounds 1-2: Wrexham 7m 3-0; 1st semi: Bunting 0; Cambridge City 6; Marthly 3.

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# Travel-weary champions intent on basking in Indian summer

The England cricketers touched down in Delhi on Wednesday in readiness for the opening ceremony of the sixth women's World Cup today. High spirits are matched by high hopes, but the defence of their crown, won so gloriously at Lord's four years ago, might depend as much on their diplomatic skills as their ability.

Karen Smithies, 28, wants to be the first captain to make a successful defence of the trophy, but her initial task may be to lead England in mutiny. The latest itinerary expects England to travel nine hours by train from Hyderabad to Vijayawada, arrive at 6am and, three hours later, play a match against Pakistan.

First-class rail travel in India, as I remember from the Young England tour of 1981, at least ensures a seat and a blanket. In the other carriages, locals squeeze shoulder to shoulder. The alien landscape for the touring team, taking in temples, poverty and disease, will induce both a sense of wonder and dislocation.

Megan Lear, the England coach, played in the second World Cup, staged in India in 1979. "This itinerary is much more demanding," she said. "Twenty years ago we played five games in five weeks. We're not yet sure of these arrangements but, clearly, that overnight journey and match would not be acceptable to any international team. We hope to get it ironed out when the captains and coaches meet at the opening ceremony."

The well-documented organisational difficulties of the men's World Cup, staged in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1996, serve as a warning of what might lie ahead. Although there is considerable enthusiasm for this tournament, the huge commercial need to get things right for a vast television audience do not exist. The women will need patience and fortitude to resist the more outlandish travel demands.

At least this crop of players know what to expect. Eleven of the 14 toured India in 1995. Smithies said that it was not a happy trip. "The cricket was OK but the rest was awful," she said. "India tests everyone and things spiralled out of control. What's important is that we all learn from that."

**SARAH POTTER**



England must learn to adapt if they are to mount a successful defence of the women's World Cup

happy trip. "The cricket was OK but the rest was awful," she said. "India tests everyone and things spiralled out of control. What's important is that we all learn from that."

Certainly the squad is united and professional. Vodafone's sponsorship, secured in time for the victorious series against South Africa last summer, has meant that at last the players have not had to pay for the privilege of pulling on an England sweater. Lottery grants have helped preparations off the pitch and coaches such as Dermot Reeve, Mike Gatting and Geoff Arnold have lifted standards on it.

Smithies thinks that it might make the difference. "These guys want us to do well and that gives us a boost," she said. "Dermot Reeve has been great for me because, tactically, he knows all the little intricacies that I wouldn't have thought of. He gets us to try things; the reverse sweep, the paddle, anything to put the ball where there's a gap. It doesn't matter whether it looks elegant, it's

about getting runs on the board."

Although England have Australia in their group, they should make enough runs against South Africa, Ireland, Denmark and Pakistan to qualify for the semi-final, on Christmas Eve. New Zealand are joint favourites with England, but India, in front of 40,000 partisan supporters and playing on sun-baked wickets that suit their gifted

spin bowlers, will also be a threat.

Smithies does not care who steps forward to challenge as long as England are in the final, in Calcutta on December 29. She is not ready to be called a Spice Girl — she hates curry and knows that Christmas without her husband, Dean, will be difficult — but she is single-minded. "It's a big wrench, but this is the World Cup and we are defending

champions," she said. "That outweighs everything."

Leah believes that England have the potential to triumph if the players can adapt. "It will be tough to be away at this time of year," she said. "Christmas isn't celebrated there so they look a bit bemused when you're sitting in your paper hats. We've all bought each other little presents and if we're in the final that will be enough."

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**ATHLETICS: McKIERNAN, McCOLGAN AND SUZUKI HEAD STRONG LINE-UP FOR PRESTIGIOUS LONDON EVENT**

## Women set sights on a marathon effort

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A NEW women's world record is a distinct possibility at the 1998 Flora London Marathon with the announcement yesterday that several outstanding internationals will be running.

Catherina McKiernan, of Ireland, who made the fastest debut at a marathon with 2hr 23min 44sec last September, will take part, along with Hiromi Suzuki, the 1997 world champion from Japan, and Liz McColgan, Britain's most successful female dis-

tance runner. The world record is 2hr 21min 06sec, set on the London course by Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway, in 1985, and McKiernan would earn about £128,000 if she bettered that.

However, McKiernan, 28, said yesterday: "The money does not make you run any faster. At some stage I believe I could beat that time, but I do not know whether it will be in London. There are still four months to go and it depends how well prepared I am."

McKiernan said that the Berlin

marathon last September was "easier than I expected and I think I could run a lot faster". Joe Doonan, her coach, said yesterday the world mark could be under threat if there were "three or four people in the field capable of doing it, all believing that they can win. One doubt if it is possible to set a world record by just having a pacemaker for some of the race."

Unlike some marathons, the London Marathon no longer mixes its elite men and women's fields, as it did when Kristiansen took part. The

leading women can no longer be paced by men as they are in many other international city events.

The elite women now start 30 minutes before the men in the London Marathon after organisers decided to make more of a feature of the women's event. The marathon is still growing in popularity with the public. A record 100,000 have applied to run in the event, to be held on April 26, but 55,000 of them will be told this month that their applications were unsuccessful.

## TENNIS

# Rusedski blames injury for surprise withdrawal

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE late withdrawal of a leading name from a tournament is nothing new to tennis, but Greg Rusedski's absence from the Albert Hall doubles championship yesterday left something of a sour taste.

Rusedski pulled out of the exhibition event in London even though he had been practising hard in the morning — and has scheduled a further session today.

Rusedski felt that the injury to his lower back, which he sustained in Hanover, could not be risked in a light-hearted doubles match. The wonder is that he completed a two-hour practice session on Wednesday and 90 minutes yesterday morning, when he looked untroubled. The detail was greeted with no little astonishment by the tournament organisers, who were initially alerted to Rusedski's back problem three days ago.

More than 20,000 tickets have been sold for an event that marks the return of tennis to the Albert Hall after a decade's absence. Rusedski and Tim Henman were recruited to add substance to the Seniors Tour of Champions, which includes John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg. Although they are the main attractions, Rusedski's expected presence is bound to have helped ticket sales. In his absence, Henman, neatly capturing the spirit of the occasion, teamed up with his coach David Felgate, to beat Peter McNamara and John Lloyd.

Peter Worth, the tournament chairman, said of Rusedski's withdrawal: "We

are very disappointed to learn that he is injured. We have heard that he has been practising hard. We do find it peculiar that the morning after pulling out, he has apparently been hitting the ball hard and that he was serving well on Wednesday."

Tony Pickard, Rusedski's coach, maintained that the player's back is prone to locking up — and not necessarily while hitting the ball. "He has been in a mess for two days," Pickard said. "You can't confidently go into a match, no matter how light-hearted, in this situation. It is better not to play at all than to pull out after 20 minutes. He needs to get into shape for the start of next year. It is not a con."

A spate of injuries has plagued the concluding weeks of the season. Although this tournament is anything but significant, Rusedski's withdrawal underlined once again just how much fans are being

short-changed. If injuries in all sports are inevitable, withdrawals or unfinished matches have become an all-too-common occurrence in tennis.

The issue of mistreating the game's fan-base was amplified by Henri Leconte, who opened the seniors tournament with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Johan Kriek. Leconte, still one of the more charismatic performers, said of present-day players: "They need to understand that if they don't work together to pay more attention to the crowd and the kids, the game will go down quickly in the next five or six years."

Borg and McEnroe play today and both testify that the chemistry triggered by the sight of the other across the net remains strong. It should certainly be an occasion to remember. McEnroe, complete with his tantrums of old, warmed up by beating Guillermo Vilas 6-3, 6-3.

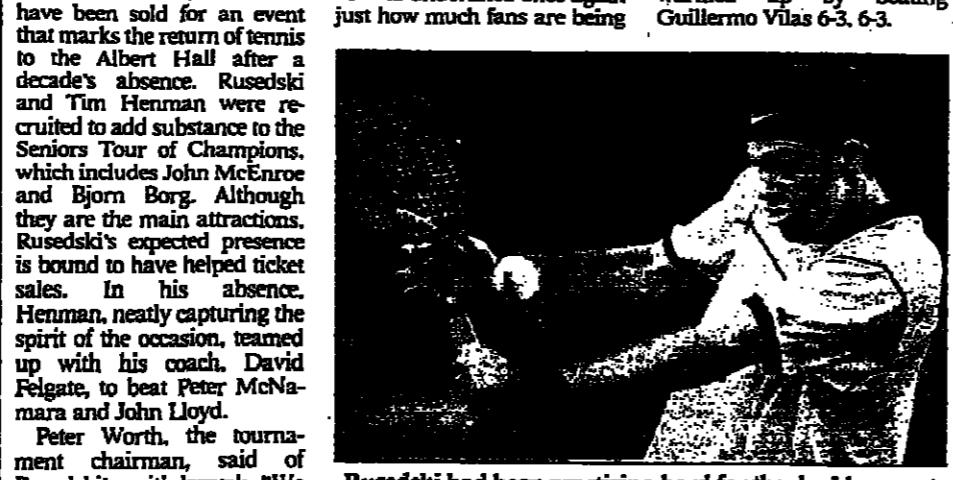
Rusedski had been practising hard for the doubles event

Now there's an easier way to give your child a world of knowledge

All this knowledge and so much more is packed into the new *Eyewitness Children's Encyclopedia* on PC CD-ROM. Designed specially for ages 7-11, the encyclopedia supports the School Curriculum and has been created specifically for the UK. Bursting with interactive adventures, it will pave the way to success at school. Learning need never be a burden again.



EDUCATION MEETS IMAGINATION



## TELEVISION CHOICE

# Redheads rule the roost

Red Hair Day  
BBC1, from 9.00am

For no reason, though it is a sniffing idea, the BBC has decided that it is time to celebrate red hair. Accordingly most of the regular programmes feature redheads in their line-ups, starting with two brother-and-sister teams in *Carr Cook, Won't Cook*. The theme continues in *Style Challenge*, presented by the auburn Shauna Lowry and featuring a redhead who wants to make more of it and a "mousy" who would like to turn her hair scarlet. Jane Asher displays her russet locks on *Good Living*, while *Call My Bluff* guests are Steve Davis, Rula Lenska, Dr Phil Hammond and Isla Blair. Even the weather gets the treatment, courtesy of the flame-haired forecaster Isobel Lang. There is one notable absentee, though after his recent falling-out with the Beeb the non-appearance on *Red Hair Day*, copper-nob Chris Evans, is unsurprising.

War Walks  
BBC2, 8.00pm

Richard Holmes may be a military historian but not for the first time in this series he is excellent on the political background against which his featured battle was fought. The conflict on the River Boyne in 1690 between the forces of the Protestant William III and the Catholic James II has become a seminal event in the story of Irish Protestantism as the July marching season continues to demonstrate. After Holmes's informative film there can be no excuse for not understanding why. But for Unionists claiming King Billy as their hero, Holmes unashamedly points out that King Billy was a mockingly asthmatic with no real interest in Ireland. Furthermore, if a Jacobite musketeer had been a shade more accurate at the start of the battle the course of Irish history could have been very different.

Blind Men  
ITV, 8.30pm

The third episode of Chris England's sitcom confirms the evidence of the first, that this is an amiable, unchallenging show which breaks no comedy moulds but slips down easily thanks to its lively pace and deft plotting. To have a plot at all



Redheads have more fun (BBC1 from 9am)

has become unfashionable in comedy writing so all credit to England for going back to basic principles. Tonight's scenario involves our feuding policemen (played by Jesse Birdsall and Jeremy Swift) in a bid about the quickest route by car between the showroom and the factory. From this premise England builds fruitfully. Wasting a good Sunday morning on a silly car race infuriates the men's partners and the contest itself becomes better by obstacles such as road works and a traffic cop on the lookout for speeding vehicles.

The Wogan Years  
BBC1, 10.30pm (not Scotland)

Bettie Davis's appearance on the Terry Wogan show was doubly notable. In the first place she refused to be truthful about her age and got a thunderous round of applause for revealing that she was 79. She also made no pretence about the reason for coming on the programme, which was to plug her latest book. Wogan asked mild outrage at such naked salesmanship but why should he? Probably 85 per cent of his guests were there to plug something and few did so with Davis's candour. These latest pickings from 7½ years of Wogan also include what is claimed to be the longest and loudest ovation accorded to a single guest. And who could this superstar be? Sorry, but you will have to tune in and find out, though it does mean having to sit through Zsa Zsa Gabor and some cast child stars.

Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century)  
Radio 3, 7.30pm

The coming festive season will not of course remain an uplifting and care-free affair as the performance by the BBC Singers from Ely Cathedral, a statement I make with confidence, even though it is no more than a prediction given that this is a live concert. The Singers are one of the more compelling reasons to think that the licence fee is one of life's better bargains. Their concert, with the Britten Sinfonia, is a portrait of St Nicholas, whose feast day is celebrated tomorrow. The evening includes Benjamin Britten's *St Nicolas Cantata* and Haydn's *Mass in G Minor*, which the composer dedicated to St Nicholas, who is also the subject of the interval talk, given by Gill Pyatt, at 8.10.

## RADIO 1

6.00am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong: Essential Selection 9.00 Radio Jules 11.00 Westwood: Radio 1: Rep Show 2.00am On the Jungle 4.00 Charles Jordan

## RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.00 Bruno 10.00 Jimmy Young 11.00 Paul O'Grady 12.00 Ed Stewart 1.00 John Durnin 7.00 Huw Edwards 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. Rodwick Dunker conducts the BBC Orchestra, led by Martin Lovday 9.15 Kee 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Dickens Programme 12.30am Charles Nunn 4.00 Lata Sharmi

## RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.00 Bruno 10.00 Jimmy Young 11.00 Paul O'Grady 12.00 Ed Stewart 1.00 John Durnin 7.00 Huw Edwards 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. Rodwick Dunker conducts the BBC Orchestra, led by Martin Lovday 9.15 Kee 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Dickens Programme 12.30am Charles Nunn 4.00 Lata Sharmi

## VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 FM Radio Bank (AM) Graham Dene 1.00pm (FM) Mark Abbott (AM) Nicky Home 4.00 Russ 'n' Jon 7.00 FM Paul Coyle (AM) Celia Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

## TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill O'Herlihy and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Doherty 7.00 Mo' Deez Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickin

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephen Hughes. Includes Mozart (Exultate, Jubilate); Debussy (Dense Secrete de Danse Profane); Gershwin (Overture Strike Up the Band); Mozart (Oboe Quartet in F); Mendelssohn (Lieder ohne Worte); Brahms (String Sextet); Stravinsky (Suite Pathétique).

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Wagner (Overture Twelfth Night); Schumann (Piano Quartet in E flat); Schubert (An den Mond); Borodin (Overture Dance of the Polovtsians); Prince Igor.

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines. Chopin (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat minor, Op 17); Mendelssohn (Concerto for two pianos in E flat); Mozart (Eine kleine Nachtmusik); Brahms (Piano Quintet); Beethoven (Violin Concerto); Brahms (Double Concerto); Brahms (String Octet); Haydn (Sinfonia Massa); with Alison Smart, soprano; Lynette Alcantara, mezzo; Robert Johnstone, tenor; Stuart Macbride, baritone; Britten (St Nicolas), with Kim Begley, tenor; Choristers of Ely Cathedral.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Cole Porter. Porter (Ragtime); Ravel (La Valse); Debussy (Clair de lune); Debussy (Jeux d'eau); Debussy (Fiori d'arancio); Debussy (L'Isle joyeuse); Debussy (Nocturnes); Debussy (Reflets dans l'eau); Debussy (La Mer); Debussy (Pelléas et Mélisande); Debussy (Golaud); Debussy (Sur le pont des Champs-Elysées); Debussy (La Cathédrale engloutie); Debussy (La Mer); Debussy (Clair de lune); Debussy (Jeux d'eau); Debussy (Fiori d'arancio); Debussy (L'Isle joyeuse); Debussy (Nocturnes); Debussy (Reflets dans l'eau); Debussy (La Cathédrale engloutie); Debussy (La Mer); Debussy (Clair de lune); Debussy (Jeux d'eau); Debussy (Fiori d'arancio); Debussy (L'Isle joyeuse); Debussy (Nocturnes); Debussy (Reflets dans l'eau); Debussy (La Cathédrale engloutie); Debussy (La Mer); Debussy (Clair de lune); Debussy (Jeux d'eau); Debussy (Fiori d'

# Advice for the victims of documentaries

**A**ccording to Stephen Tompkinson's narration: "A thick fog had descended upon the part of Dover." Opening lines don't really come more exciting than that. If I tried to work up a bit of enthusiasm — a thick fog, eh? Great — but it was no good. For in truth, a thick fog descended on the series of *Dover* (TV): at the outset and halfway through, shows no sign of lifting. What chance can it possibly have against the combined fly-on-the-wall might of *Animal Hospital* (BBC) and the sun and squeals of *Holiday Reps*?

My heart went out to the men and women in fluorescent anoraks who must have imagined that life would somehow be different once the cameras arrived, who must have dreamt of their big moment — be it a "sorry mate, you can't park here" or a "is this your vehicle, sir?" — being watched by ten million. But even as I sympa-

thised, I realised that for once there was something I could do about it. I'm going into counselling.

In exchange for a relatively modest fee, I will work with those traumatised by a documentary encounter, helping them, eventually, to address the big question: "What happens when the cameras go away?" No longer will impressionable young men and women have to go through life glancing nervously to the left, convinced that there is a video camera mounted on the passenger seat of the car. Help is at hand.

On the basis of last night's triple, helping, I expect to be treating two categories of patients. The first are those suffering from post-documentary withdrawal (PDW), a relatively mild condition often characterised by a need loudly to confide intimate secrets in public places. After therapy, sufferers such as Caroline from *Minorca* should no longer feel the need to

rush off to the nearest cafe, face the same way as her best friend and shriek about her new boyfriend. Serious problems, such as convincing Caroline that she is not on the shelf at 22, could take longer.

**P**DW therapy would also include vets unable to make a diagnosis without Rolf Harris being in the room, sniffer dogs who won't work without the scent of videotape in their nostrils and holiday reps still suffering the consequences of ill-advised swim shorts. Anything more serious, however, and we're dealing with the more chronic condition: PDS, post-documentary shock.

PDS sufferers will receive long-term care and take part in group therapy sessions. A typical group might be composed of a Royal Opera House employee, a Bath rugby player, a member of the Jockey Club and anyone who has ever answered a lonely hearts ad

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

or got married on television. It's just such a group that could welcome Eve's Mum, whose first encounter with her daughter's boyfriend was so painfully captured on camera last night. He's about your height, Eve — unusual for you to have a short boyfriend. To be fair, Eve's Mum looked quite happy with that as an opening gambit, but cases of delayed PDS are increasingly common.

So too are those whose PDS condition is complicated by BHS, blobby head syndrome. These poor unfortunate are men (I'm afraid they are nearly always men) who, for one embarrassing reason or another, have to forge their 15 seconds of fame by having their features disguised by a padded blob. There were two more candidates last night — one from *Dover*, one from *Animal Hospital* — but they will not be the last. This could have been their one and only chance to be on television. My work will be important. Please give generously.

You should give even more generously if you don't want me to give away the plot of *ER* (Sky 1). No come back, I joke, I joke. We may be seven episodes into a series that won't appear on Channel 4 until next year, but it just so happens that last night's episode was the sort of episode I can write about without giving away too

much. This, in short, was the oddest episode of *ER* that I can recall — not so much *ER*, the hospital series, more *ER*, the road movie. Hot Californian deserts, endless roads, twanging guitars — the full disaster. In place of Nicolas Cage and Laura Dern we had Dr Ross (George Clooney) and Dr Green (Anthony Edwards) hitting that minty highway. Green put on sunglasses and tried to look mean. Quite successful really, but then he's a different man in this series. No more Mr Nice Guy.

The reason they were driving across the desert (and here I do have to reveal a bit of plot) is that Ross's father had died in a drink-drive car crash, taking his new wife and lorry driver with him. Cue the sort of self-indulgent, sentimental, soul-searching episode they would never dream of attempting on *Casualty* (always assuming they

had enough regulars left for a bit of soul-searching) but on *ER* they can get away with. If Doug and Mark want to drive around in a fin-tailed gas-guzzler (conveniently for the director of photography, this was Doug's principal legacy) and agonise about love and father-son relationships, that was fine.

For the two actors this was a chance for some sunshine and fresh air, while for the camera operators it was a break from all that wobbly, handheld stuff they have to do in the studio. And for us? For it was a curious episode that repaired much of the damage recently done to Doug and Mark's friendship (damage that I obviously can't discuss) and finished with the sort of magnificently slushy finale that might have embarrassed even Richard Gere. As the two doctors made their way to the motel, a third cast member appeared silhouetted at the end of the veranda. Think Neil Sedaka.

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**CRICKET 48**

Holloake at the helm as winter plans take shape

# SPORT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

**RUGBY UNION 52**

Healey on the wing as England ring changes for Twickenham

Romania, Colombia and Tunisia provide initial World Cup rivalry for Hoddle's team

## England able to draw comfort

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN MARSEILLES



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still operating from their projected base in La Baule, near Nantes, they will then move on to Toulouse a week later to play Romania before winding up their group games against Colombia in Lens, in the northeast of France, on June 26.

Romania, of course, will be the biggest threat and it is imperative that England win the group, because failure to do so is likely to pit them against Argentina in the last 16, a tie that they would prefer to avoid at that relatively advanced stage of the competition. To win the group would mean a marginally easier next tie, possibly against Croatia.

**PAST RECORD**

v Romania  
OVERALL ..... P9 W2 D8 L1 F7 A5  
WORLD CUP ..... P6 W1 D3 L1 F3 A2

v Colombia  
OVERALL ..... P3 W2 D1 L0 F5 A1  
No previous World Cup meetings

v Tunisia  
OVERALL ..... P1 W0 D1 L0 F1 A1  
No previous World Cup meetings  
World Cup record includes qualifying ties